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(12) **United States Patent**
Shimoji

(10) **Patent No.: US 9,306,301 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent: Apr. 5, 2016**

(54) **WIRE-TO-BOARD CONNECTOR**

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(72) Inventor: **Kenichi Shimoji**, Tokyo (JP)

(73) Assignee: **JAPAN AVIATION ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY, LTD.**, Tokyo (JP)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

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(22) PCT Filed: **Jan. 30, 2013**

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§ 371 (c)(1),
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PCT Pub. Date: **Oct. 3, 2013**

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(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

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H01R 12/70 (2011.01)
H01R 12/53 (2011.01)
(Continued)

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CPC ***H01R 12/70*** (2013.01); ***H01R 12/53*** (2013.01); ***H01R 12/57*** (2013.01); ***H01R 12/7005*** (2013.01); ***H01R 12/712*** (2013.01); ***H01R 12/718*** (2013.01); ***H01R 12/75*** (2013.01); *H01R 13/20* (2013.01); *H01R 2101/00* (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC H01R 12/55
See application file for complete search history.

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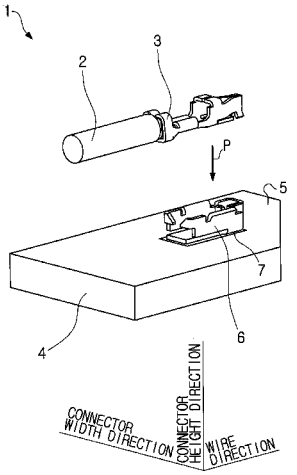
Primary Examiner — James Harvey
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Maier & Maier, PLLC

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A wire-to-board connector includes a plug which is attached to a wire, and a receptacle which is mounted on a connector mounting surface of a board. The plug and the receptacle are each formed of metal, and the plug is mated with the receptacle to thereby connect the wire to the board. The wire-to-board connector has the following structure. A wire direction corresponding to a longitudinal direction of the wire in the vicinity of the plug when the plug is mated with the receptacle is parallel to the connector mounting surface of the board. A mating direction in which the plug is mated with the receptacle is a direction approaching the connector mounting surface of the board.

8 Claims, 36 Drawing Sheets



(51) **Int. Cl.**

H01R 12/57	(2011.01)
H01R 12/71	(2011.01)
H01R 12/75	(2011.01)
H01R 13/20	(2006.01)
H01R 101/00	(2006.01)

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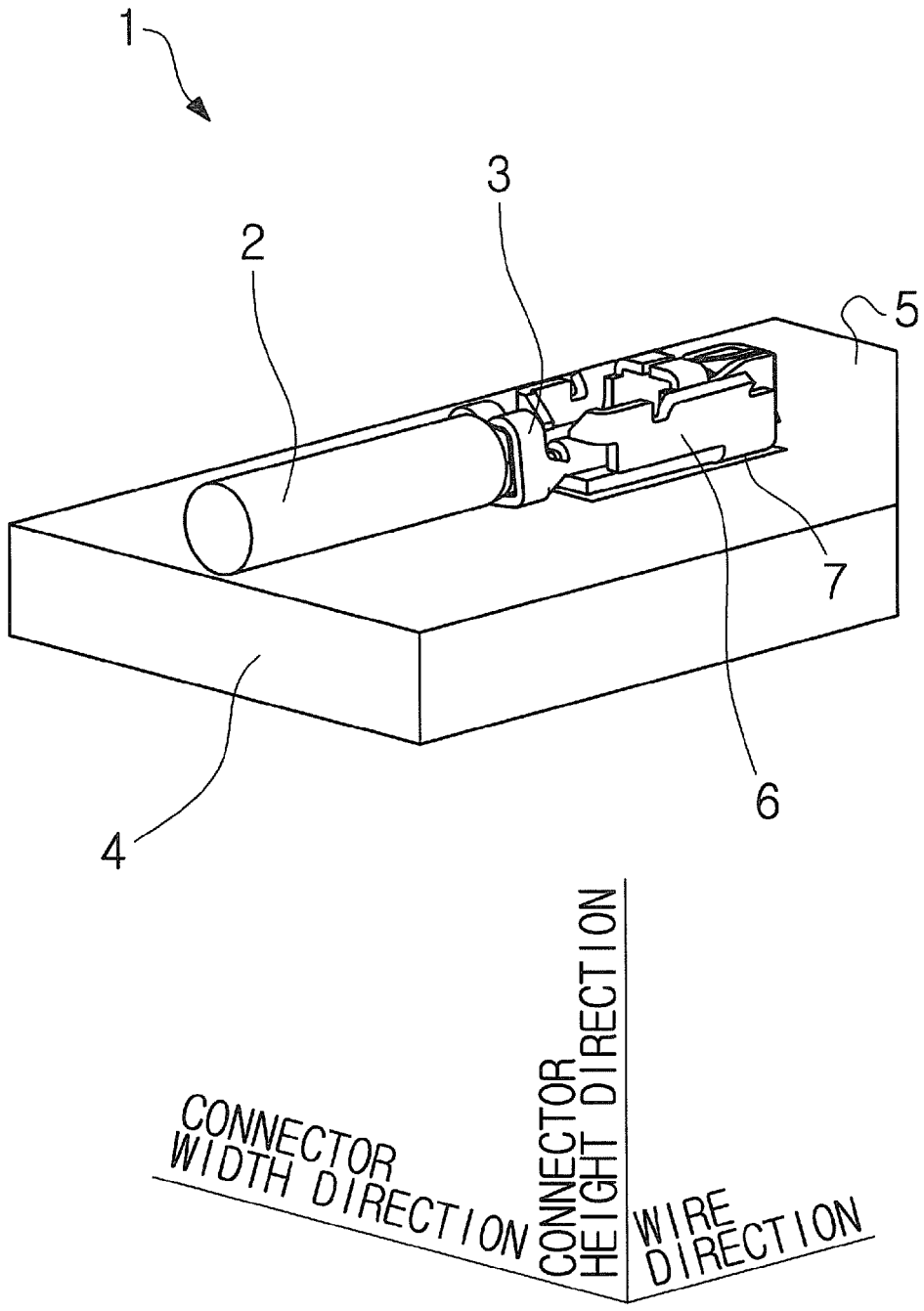
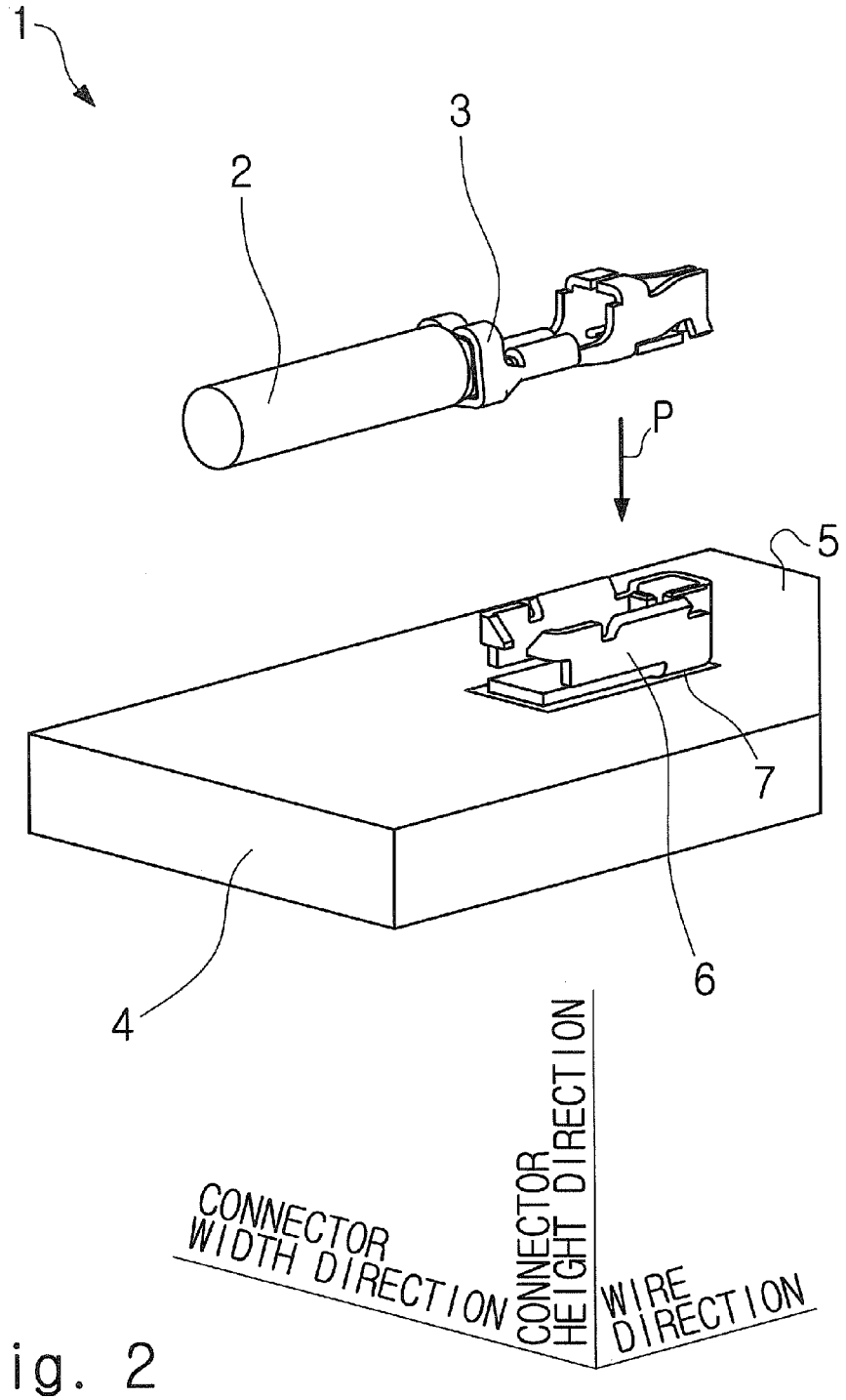

1
2
3
5
7
6
4
CONNECTOR WIDTH DIRECTION
CONNECTOR HEIGHT DIRECTION
WIRE DIRECTION

Fig. 1


1
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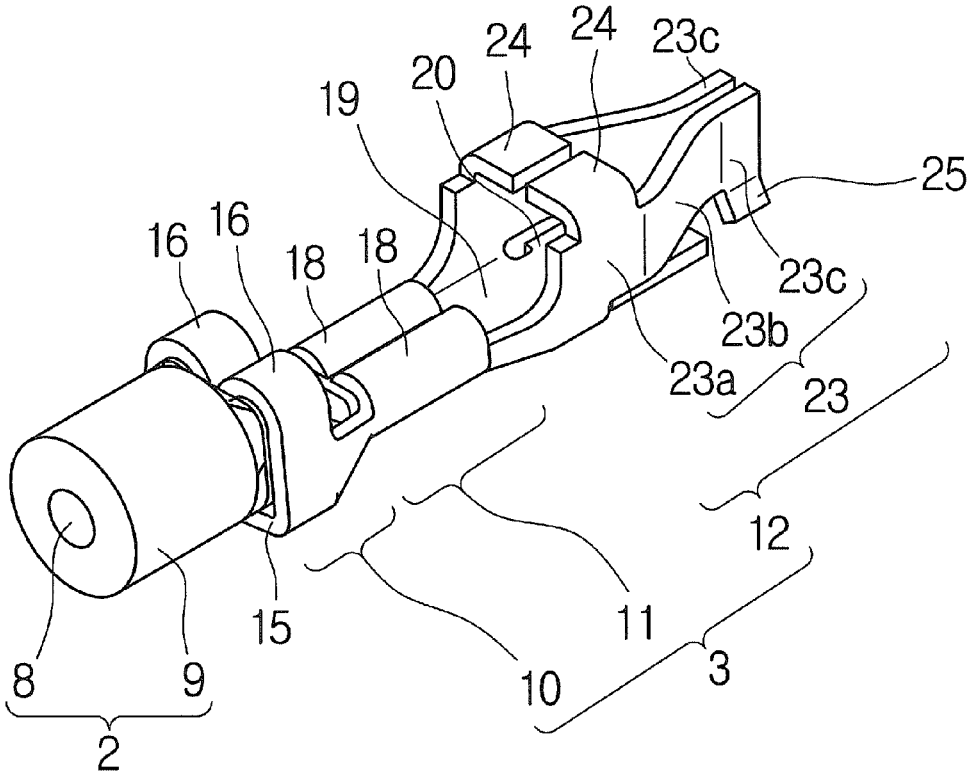
6
4
CONNECTOR WIDTH DIRECTION
CONNECTOR HEIGHT DIRECTION
WIRE DIRECTION

Fig. 2


24
24
23c
20
19
25
16
16
18
18
23c
23b
23a
23
12
11
15
10
3
8
9
2

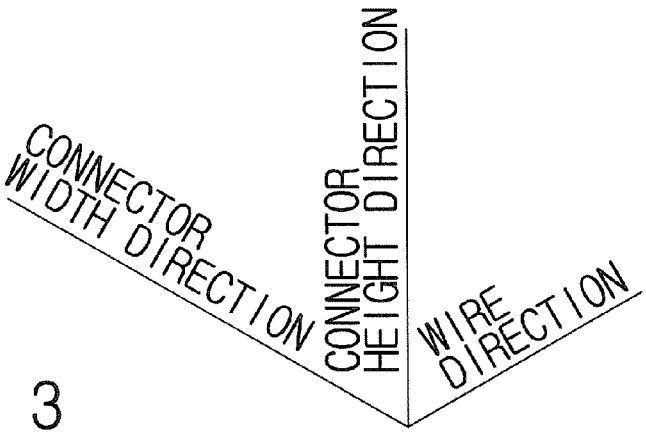
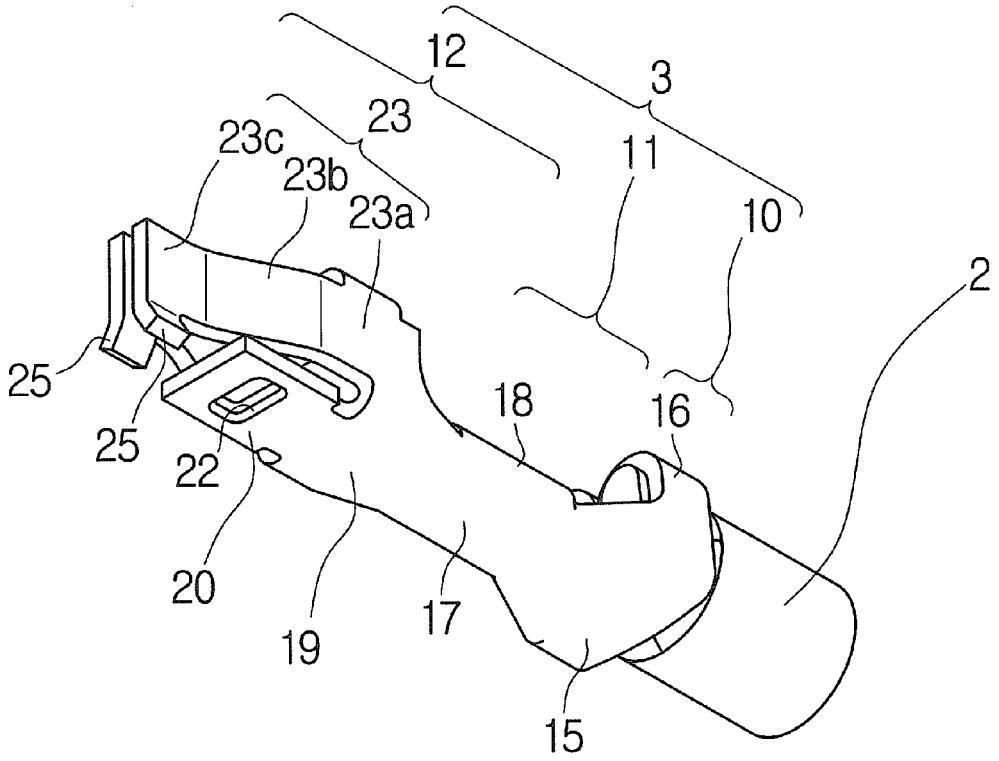

CONNECTOR WIDTH DIRECTION
CONNECTOR HEIGHT DIRECTION
WIRE DIRECTION

Fig. 3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3
23
23c
23b
23a
11
10
2
25
25
22
18
16
20
19
17
15

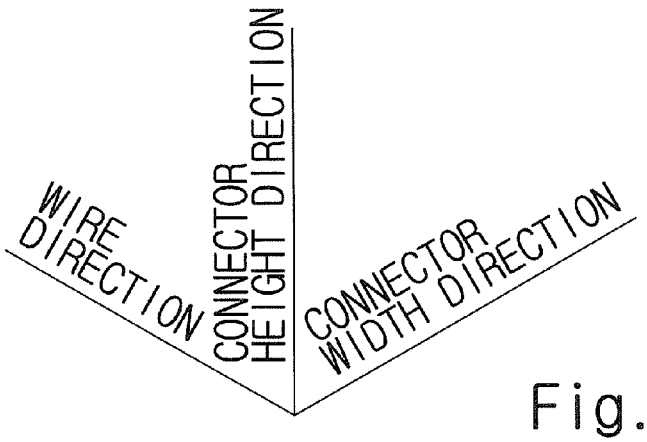

WIRE DIRECTION
CONNECTOR HEIGHT DIRECTION
CONNECTOR WIDTH DIRECTION

Fig. 4

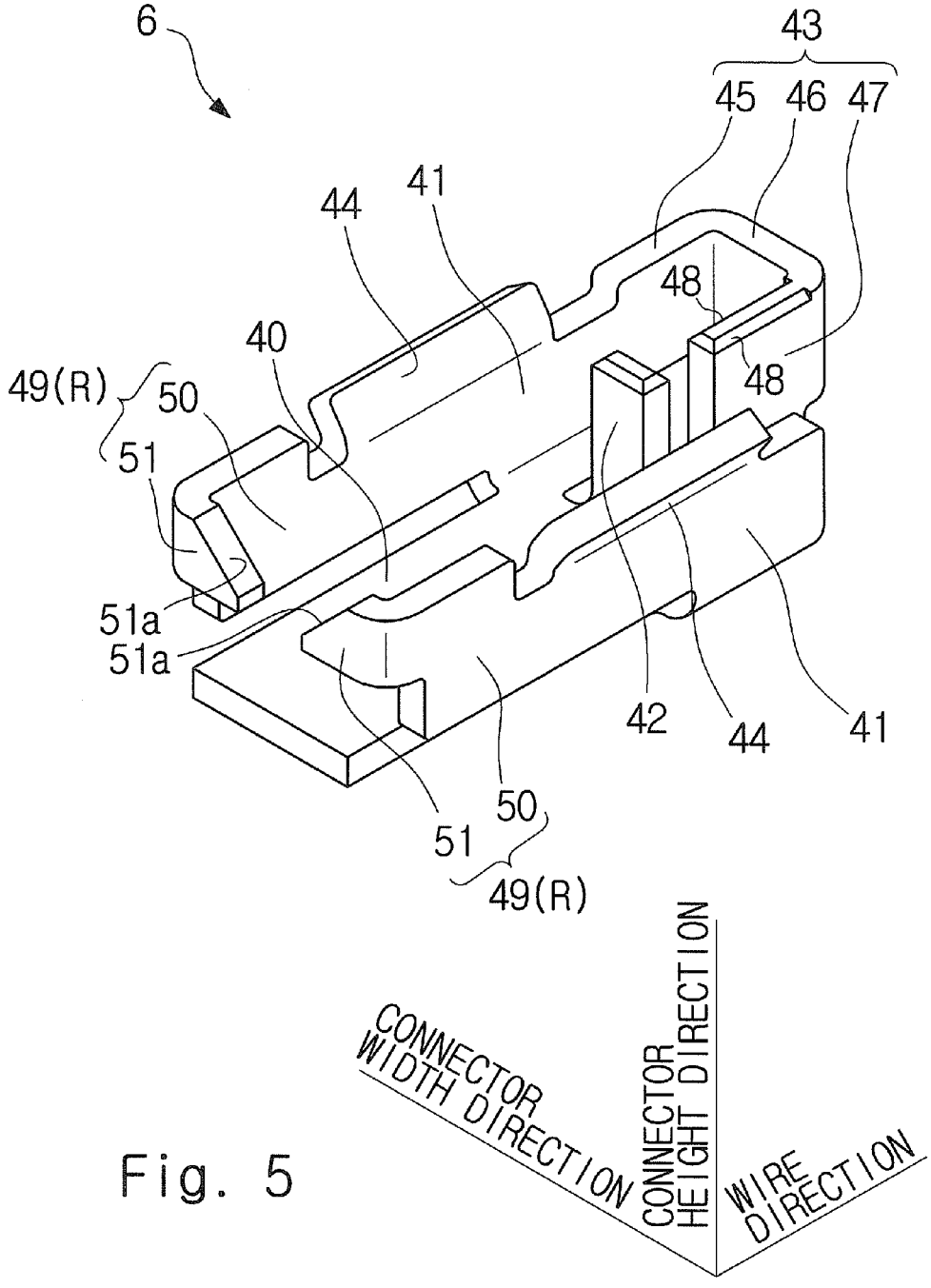

6
43
45
46
47
44
41
48
40
49(R)
50
51
48
51a
51a
42
44
41
50
51
49(R)
CONNECTOR WIDTH DIRECTION
CONNECTOR HEIGHT DIRECTION
WIRE DIRECTION

Fig. 5

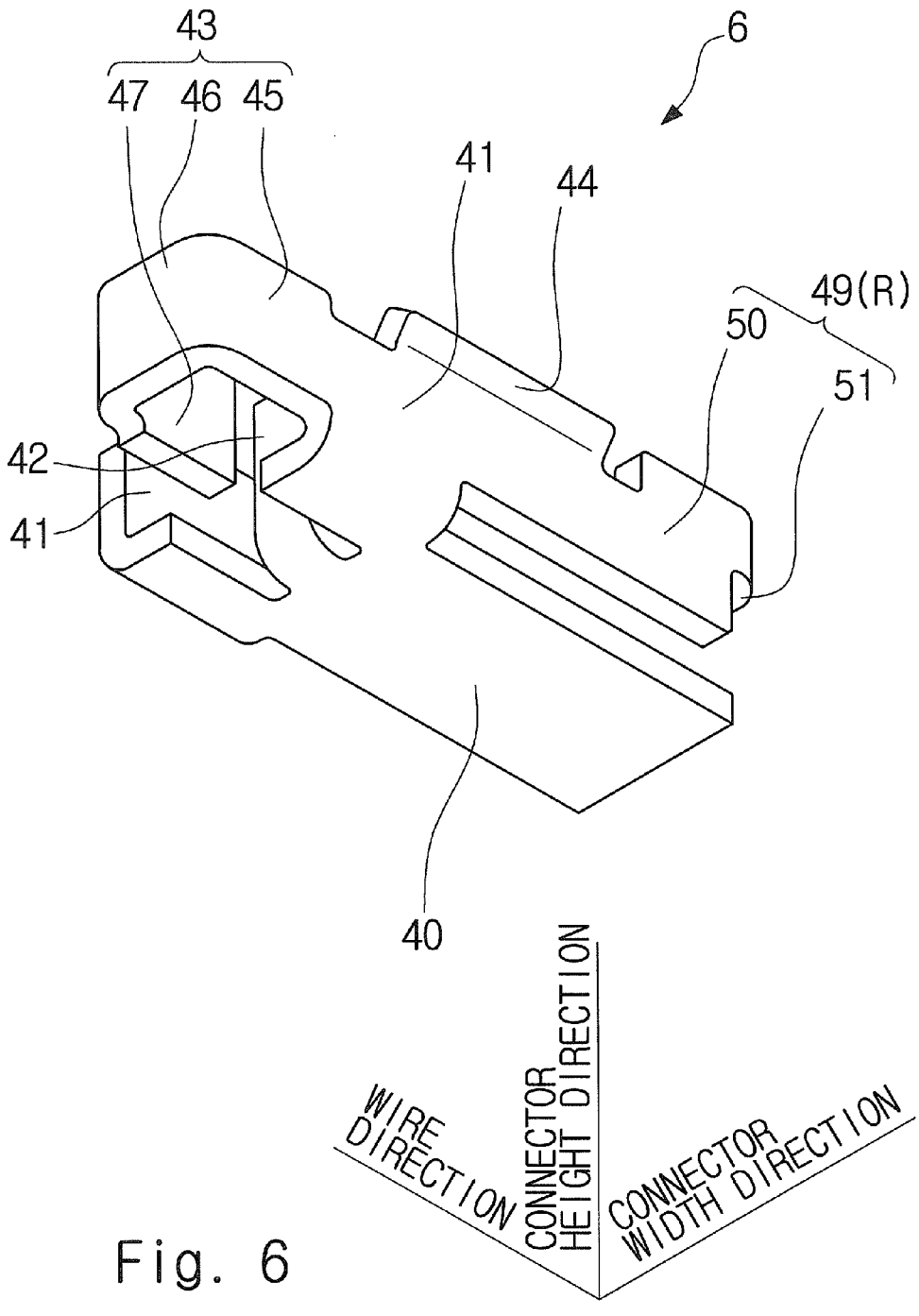

43
47
46
45
6
41
44
49(R)
50
51
42
41
40
WIRE DIRECTION
CONNECTOR HEIGHT DIRECTION
CONNECTOR WIDTH DIRECTION

Fig. 6

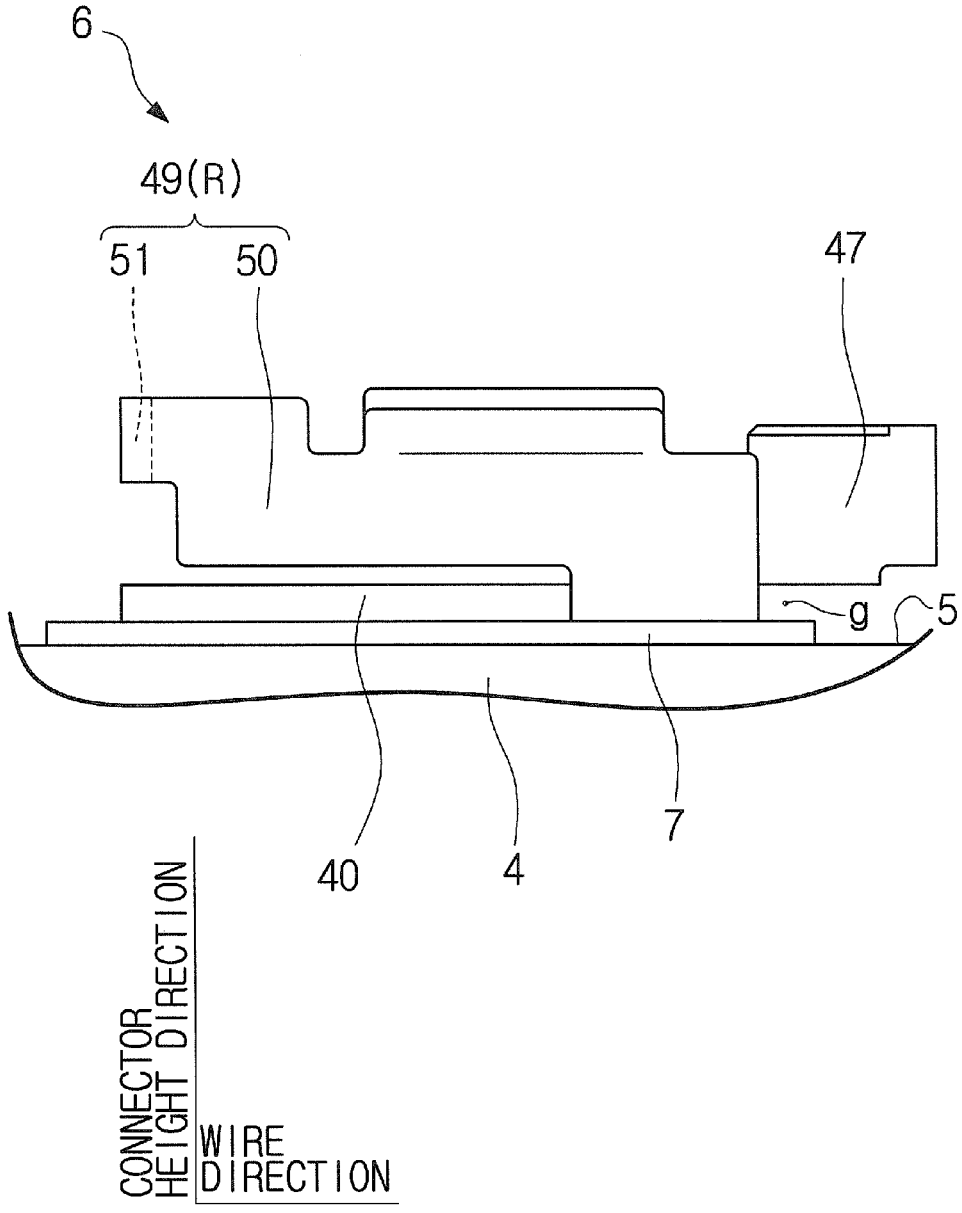

6
49(R)
51
50
47
g
5
40
4
7
CONNECTOR HEIGHT DIRECTION
WIRE DIRECTION

Fig. 7

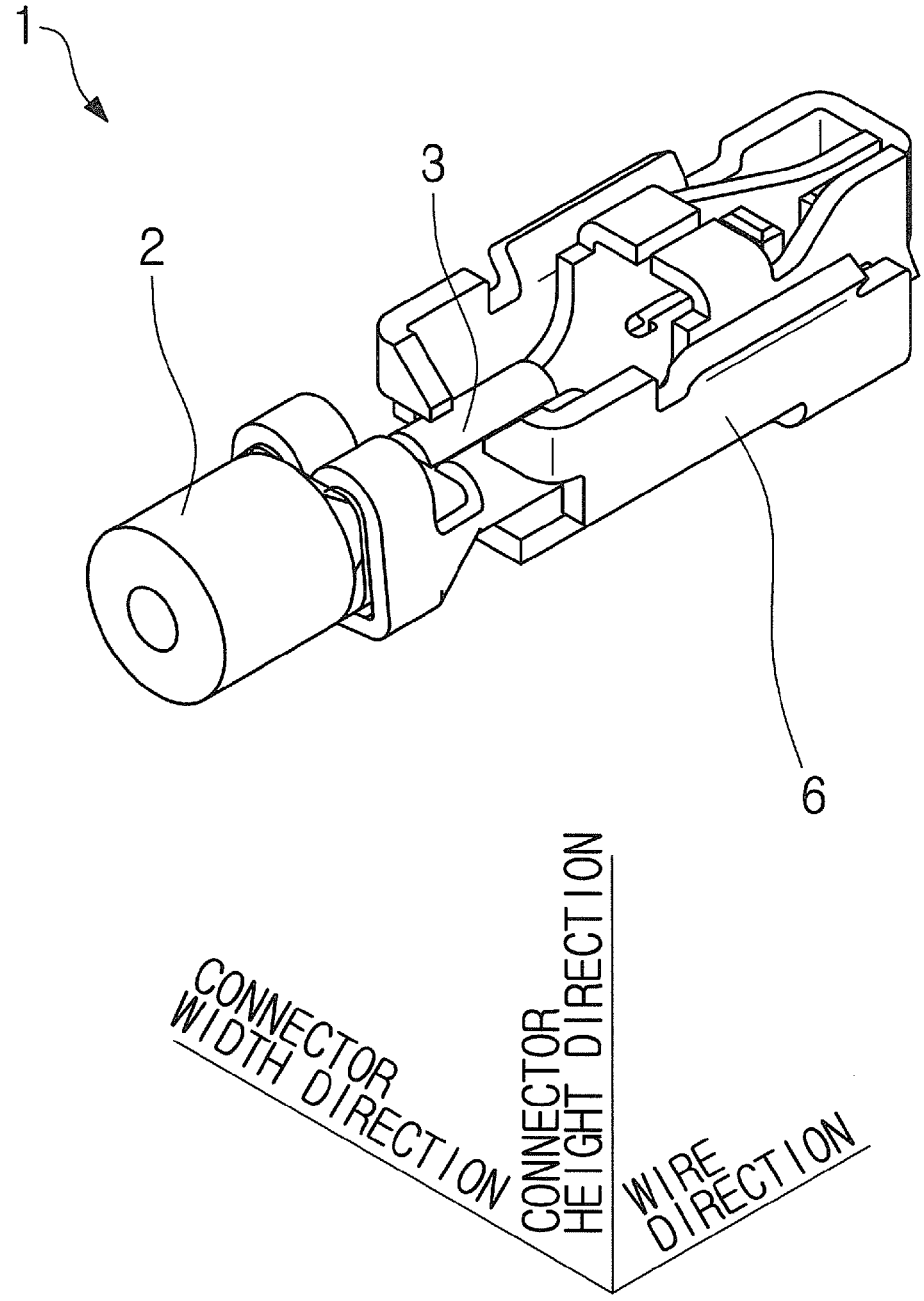

1
2
3
6
CONNECTOR WIDTH DIRECTION
CONNECTOR HEIGHT DIRECTION
WIRE DIRECTION

Fig. 8

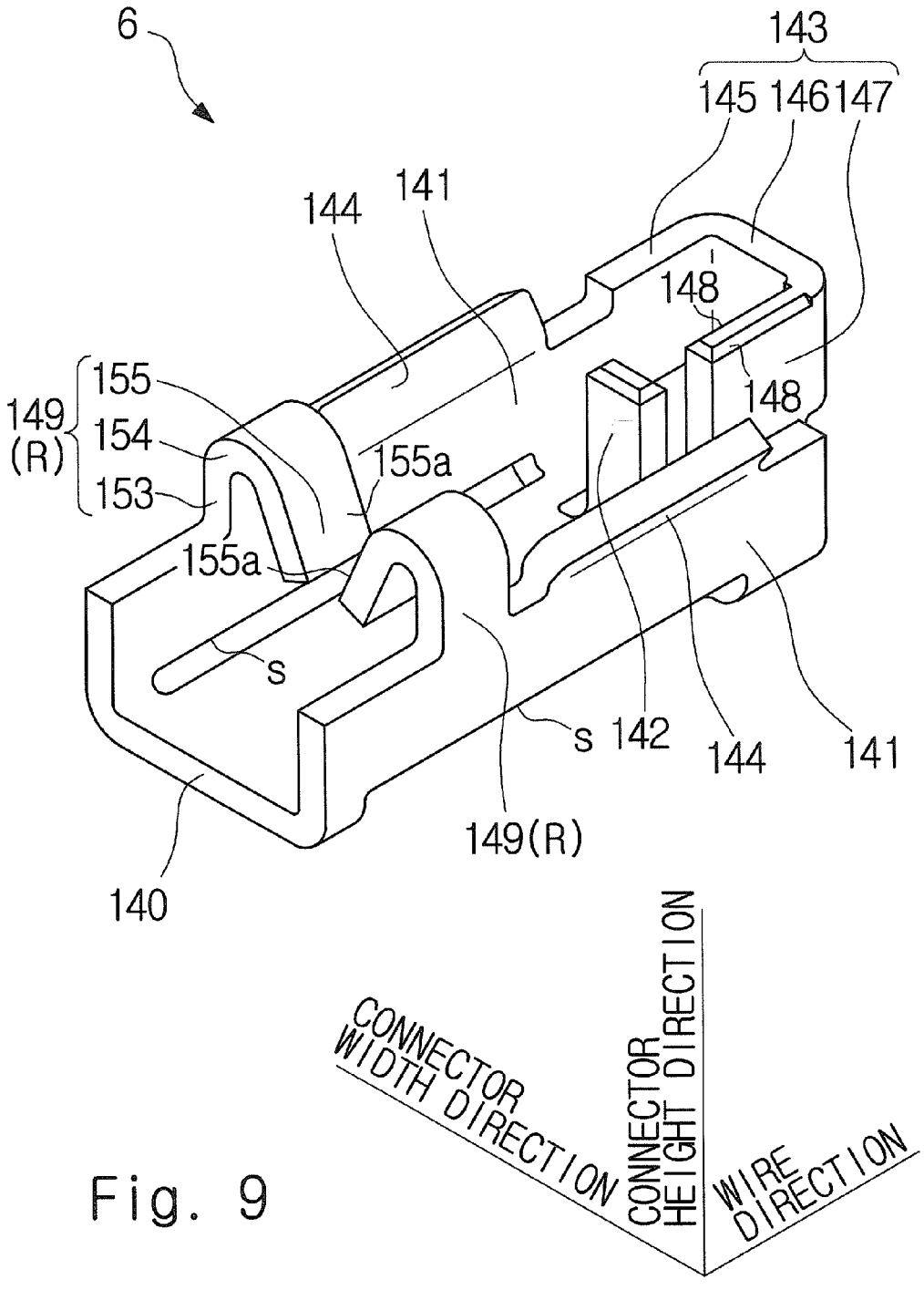
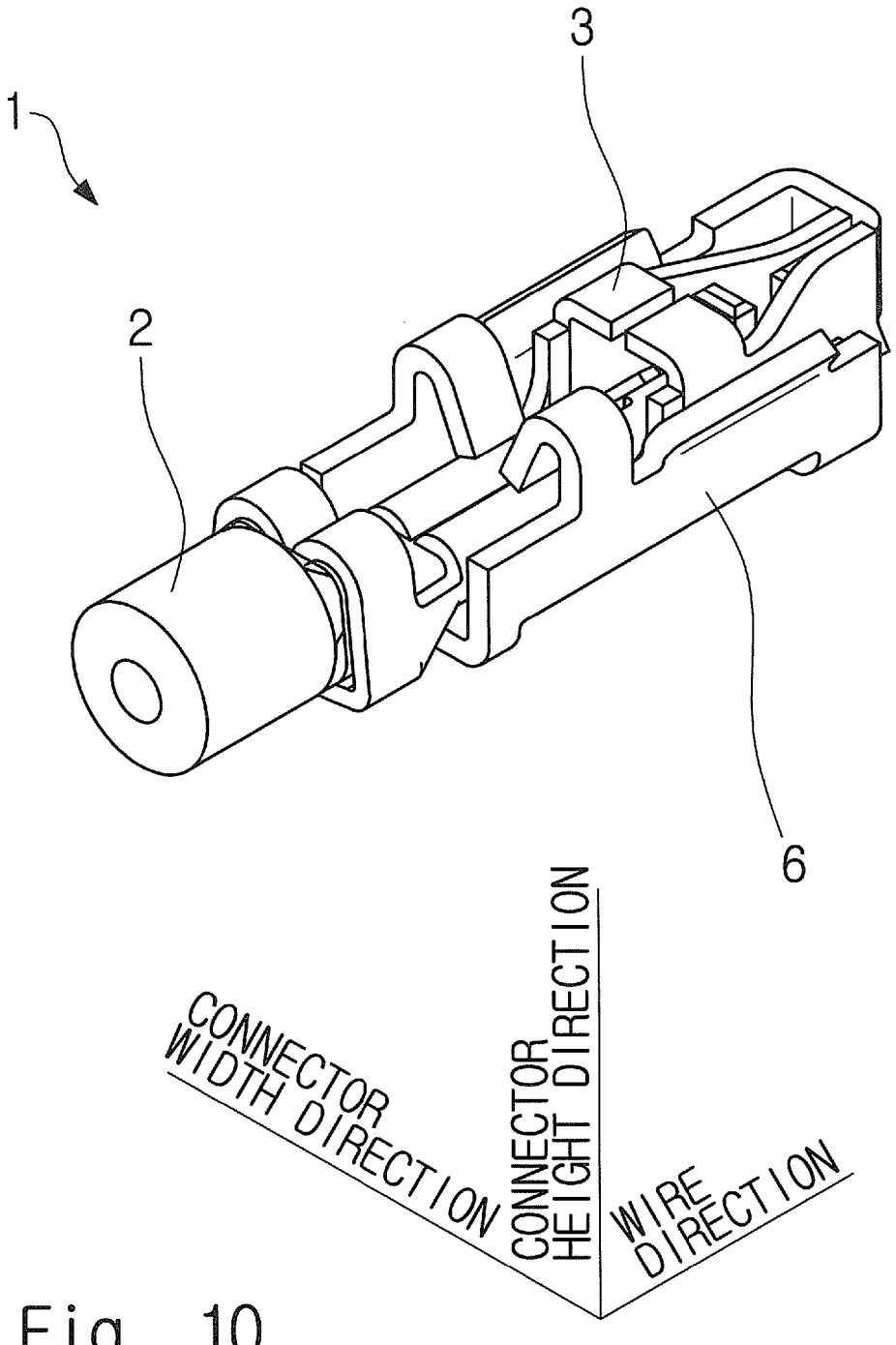

6
143
145 146 147
144
141
148
148
155
149
(R)
154
153
155a
155a
s
s
142
144
141
149(R)
140
CONNECTOR WIDTH DIRECTION
CONNECTOR HEIGHT DIRECTION
WIRE DIRECTION

Fig. 9


1
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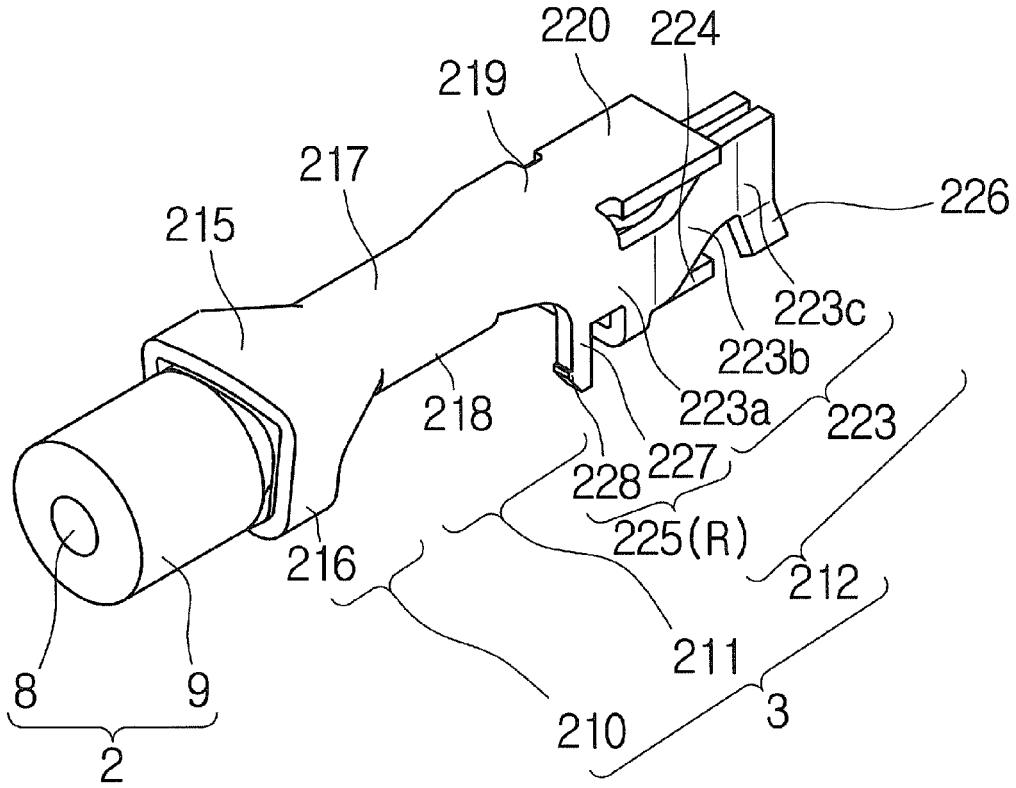
6
CONNECTOR WIDTH DIRECTION
CONNECTOR HEIGHT DIRECTION
WIRE DIRECTION

Fig. 10


220
224
219
217
215
226
223c
223b
223a
223
218
228
227
225(R)
216
212
211
210
3
8
9
2

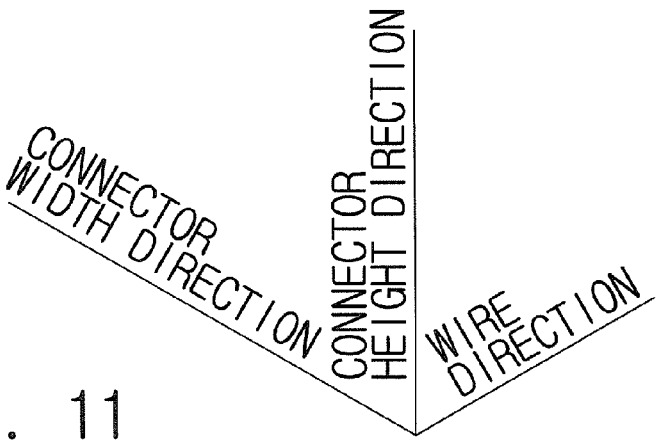

CONNECTOR WIDTH DIRECTION
CONNECTOR HEIGHT DIRECTION
WIRE DIRECTION

Fig. 11

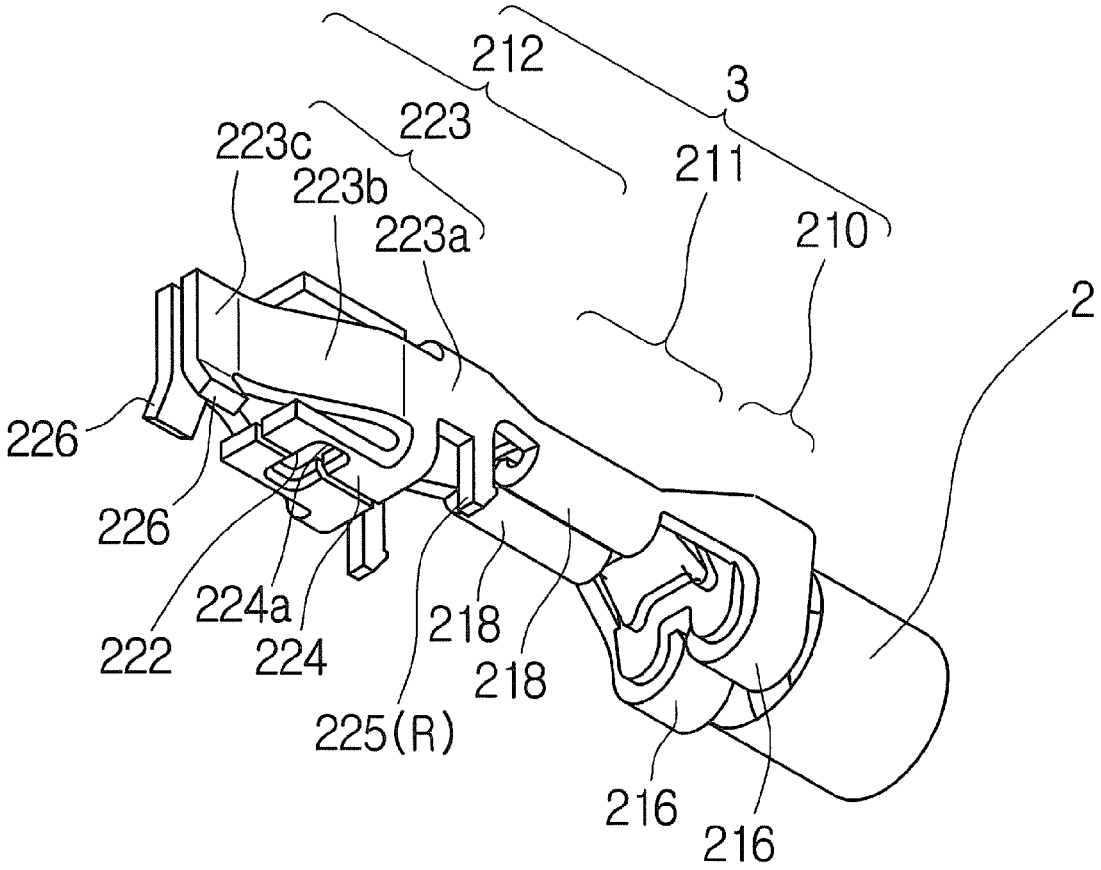

212
3
223c
223
211
223b
223a
210
2
226
226
224a
222
224
218
218
225(R)
216
216
WIRE DIRECTION
CONNECTOR HEIGHT DIRECTION
CONNECTOR WIDTH DIRECTION

Fig. 12

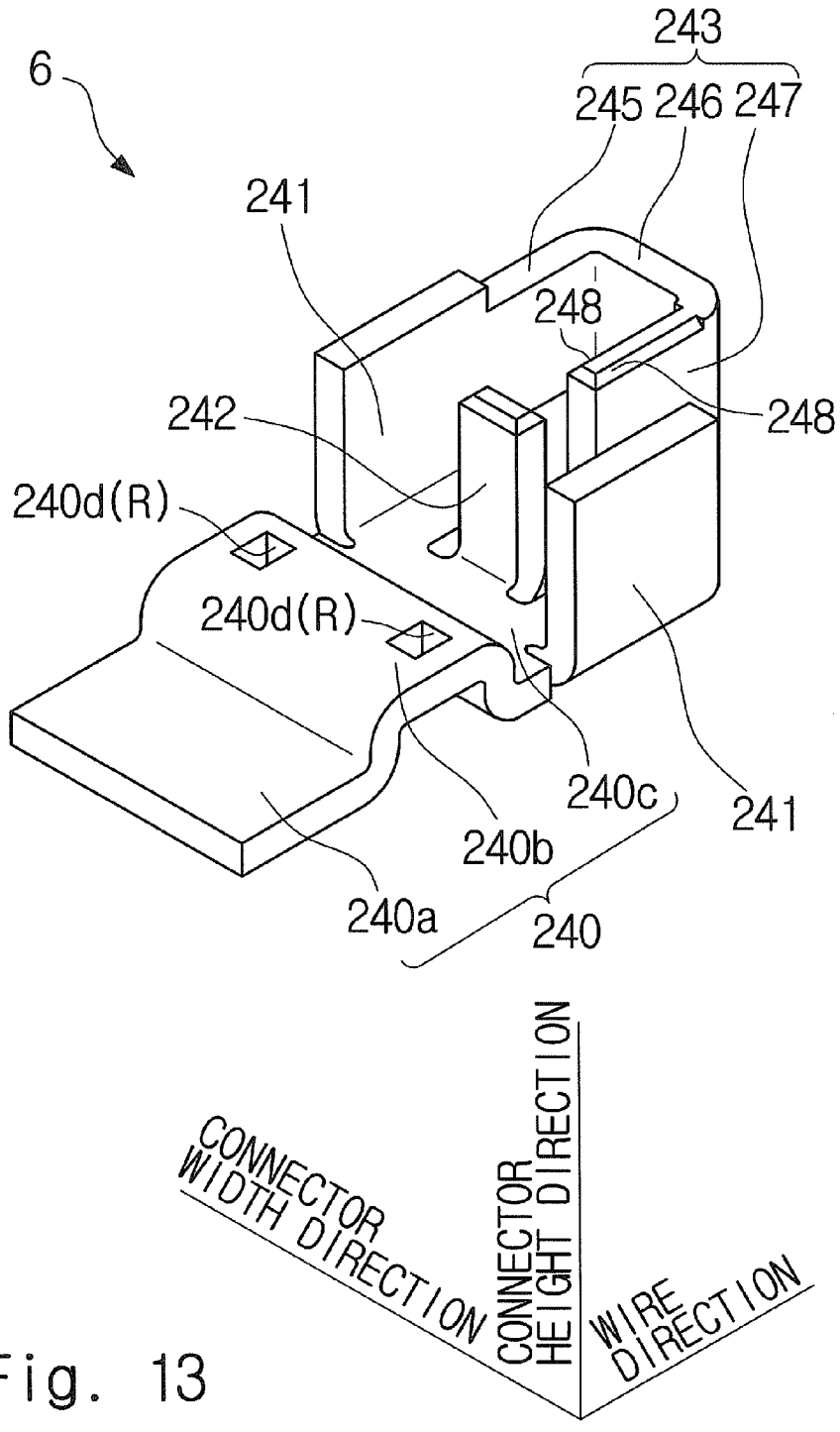
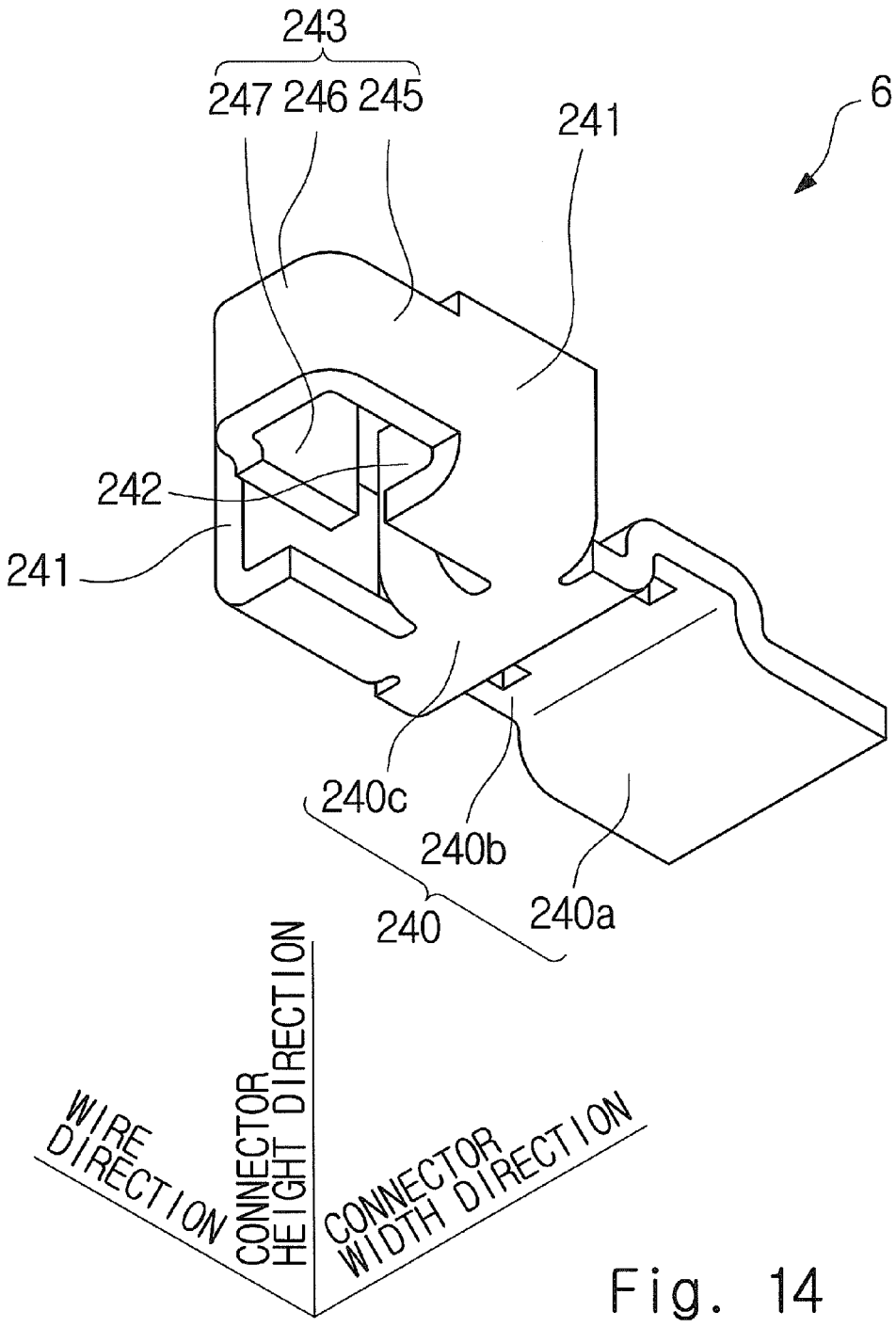

6
243
245 246 247
241
248
242
248
240d(R)
240d(R)
240c
241
240b
240a
240
CONNECTOR WIDTH DIRECTION
CONNECTOR HEIGHT DIRECTION
WIRE DIRECTION

Fig. 13


243
247 246 245
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6
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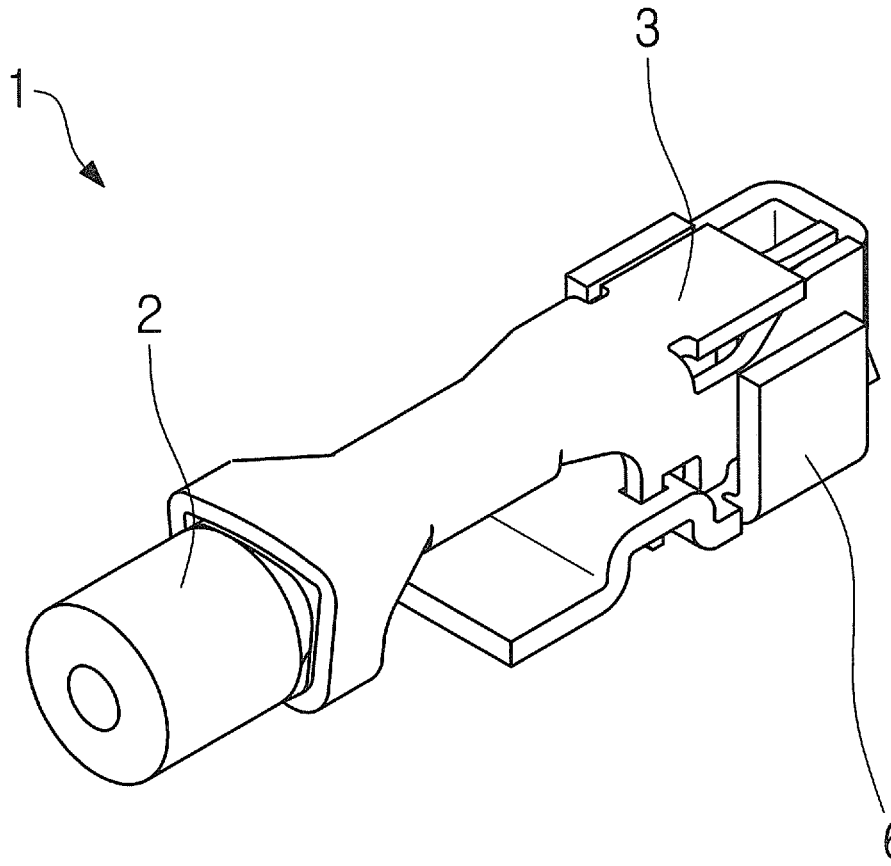
241
240c
240b
240a
240
WIRE DIRECTION
CONNECTOR HEIGHT DIRECTION
CONNECTOR WIDTH DIRECTION

Fig. 14


1
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3
6

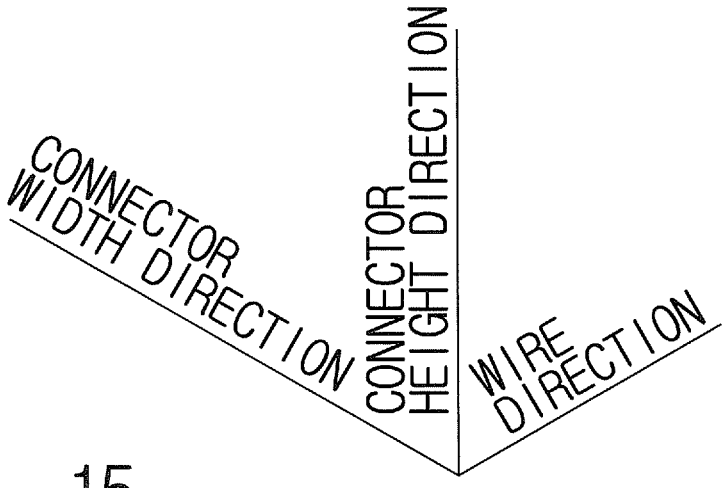

CONNECTOR WIDTH DIRECTION
CONNECTOR HEIGHT DIRECTION
WIRE DIRECTION

Fig. 15

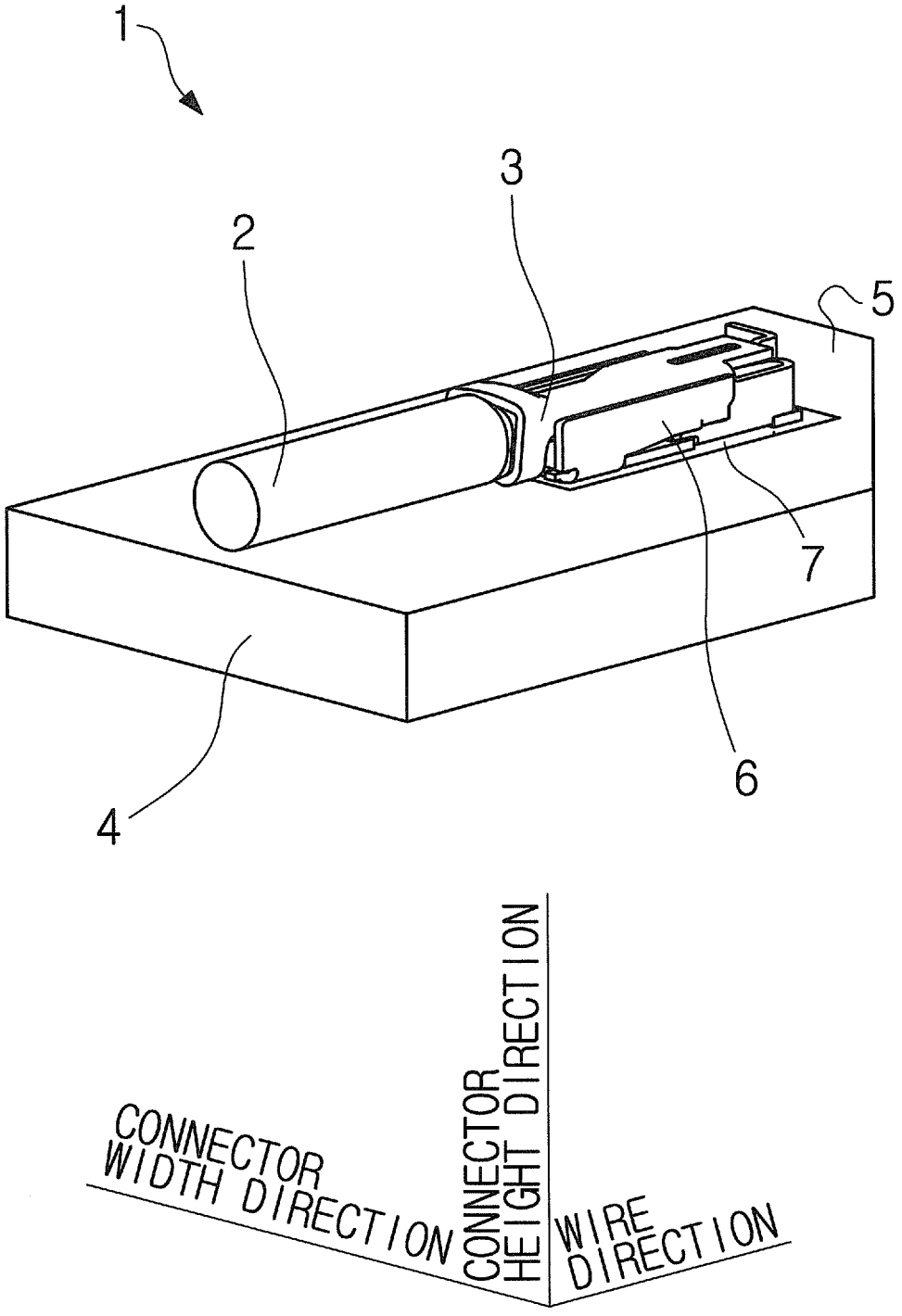
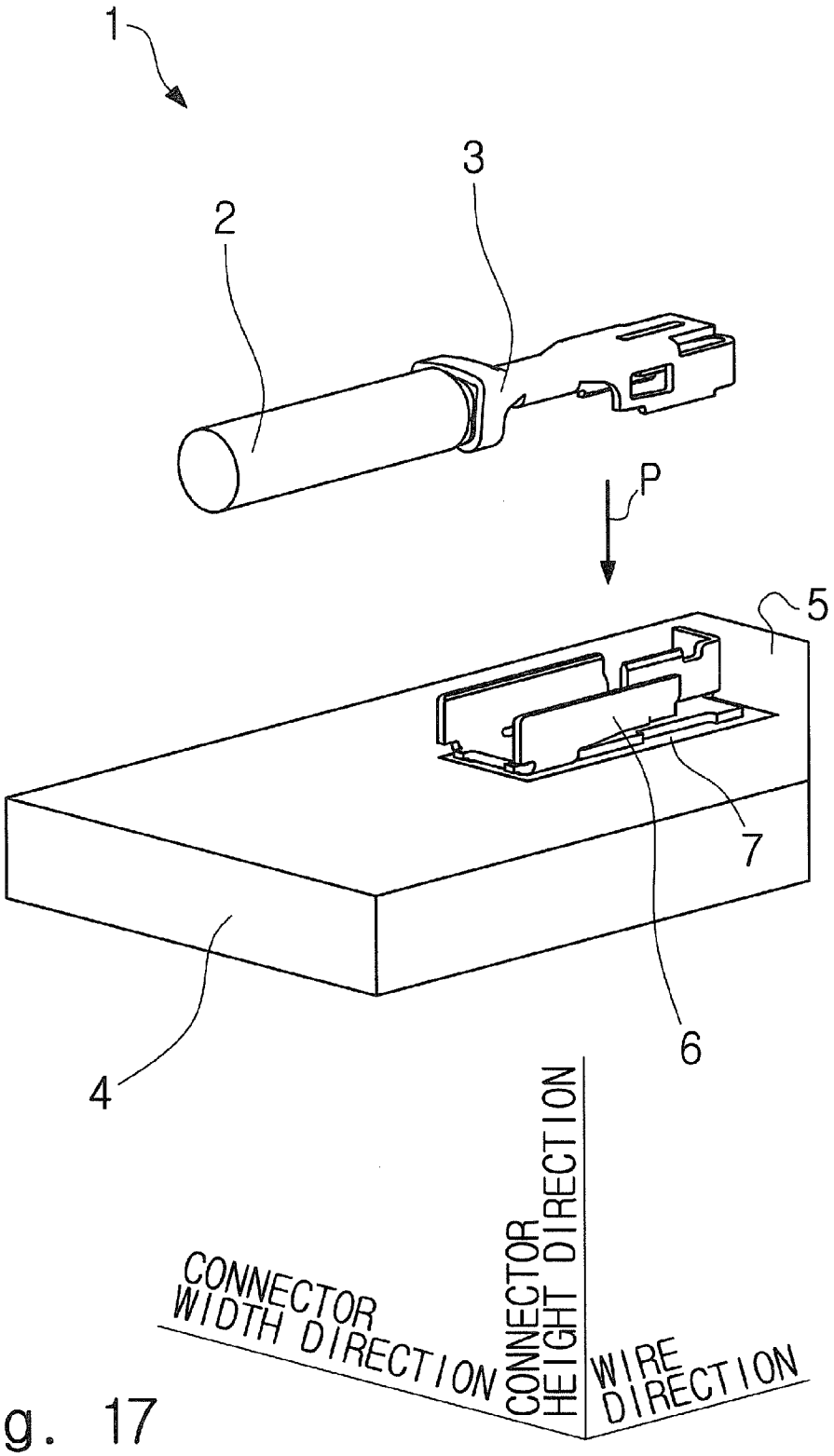

1
2
3
5
7
6
4
CONNECTOR WIDTH DIRECTION
CONNECTOR HEIGHT DIRECTION
WIRE DIRECTION

Fig. 16


1
2
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P
5
7
6
4
CONNECTOR WIDTH DIRECTION
CONNECTOR HEIGHT DIRECTION
WIRE DIRECTION

Fig. 17

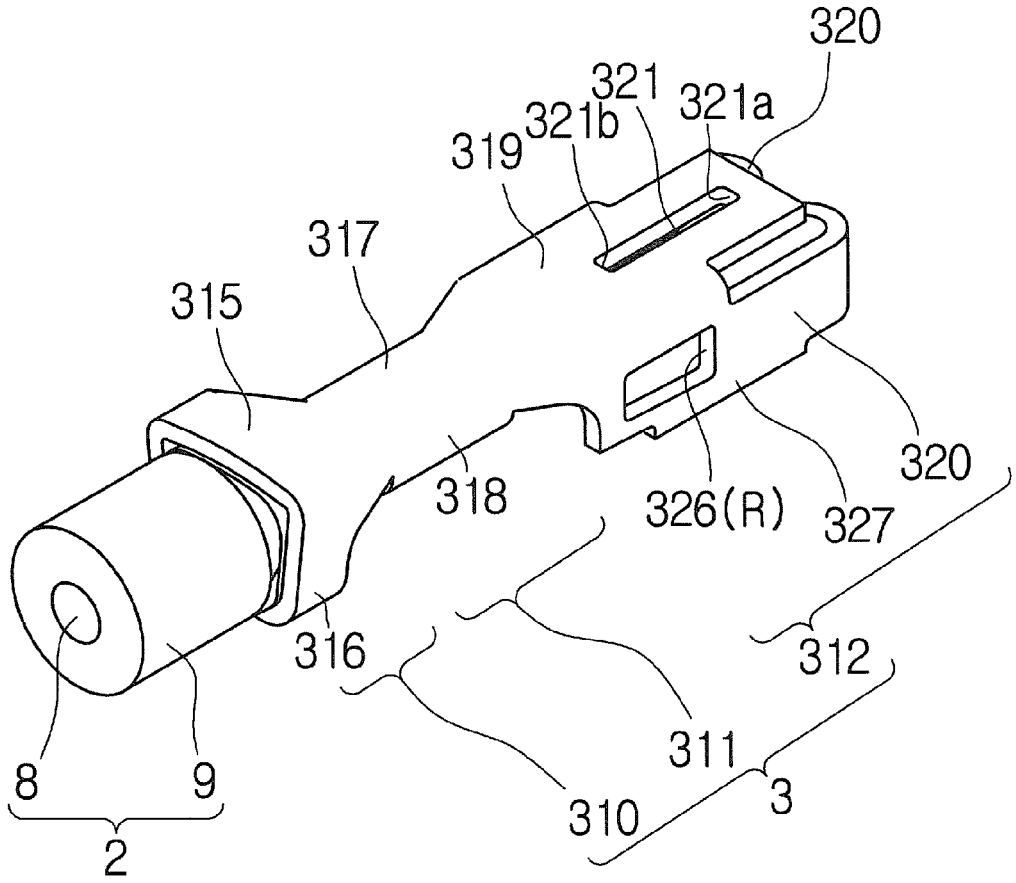

320
321
321a
321b
319
317
315
318
326(R)
327
320
316
312
311
310
3
8
9
2
CONNECTOR WIDTH DIRECTION
CONNECTOR HEIGHT DIRECTION
WIRE DIRECTION

Fig. 18

[PRIOR ART]

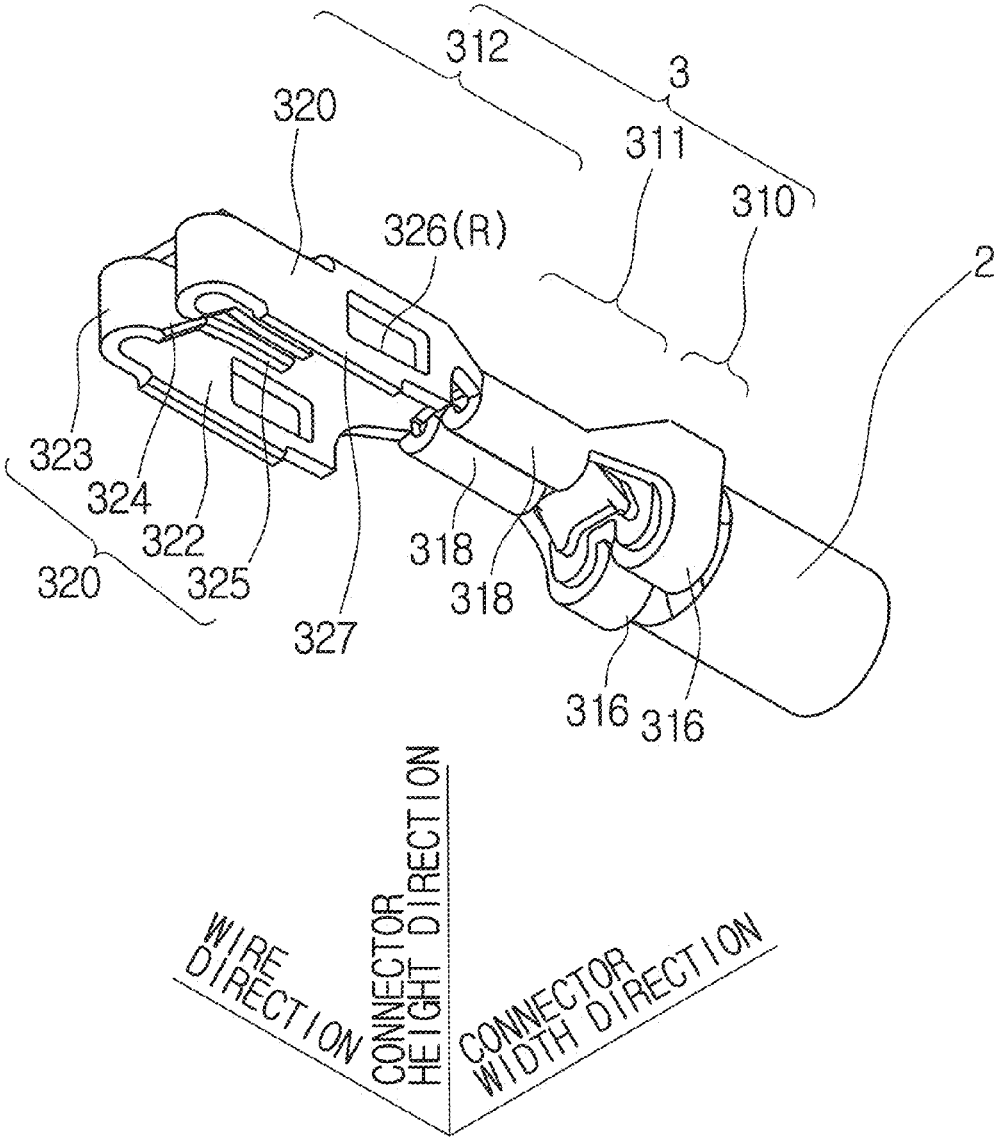


Fig. 19

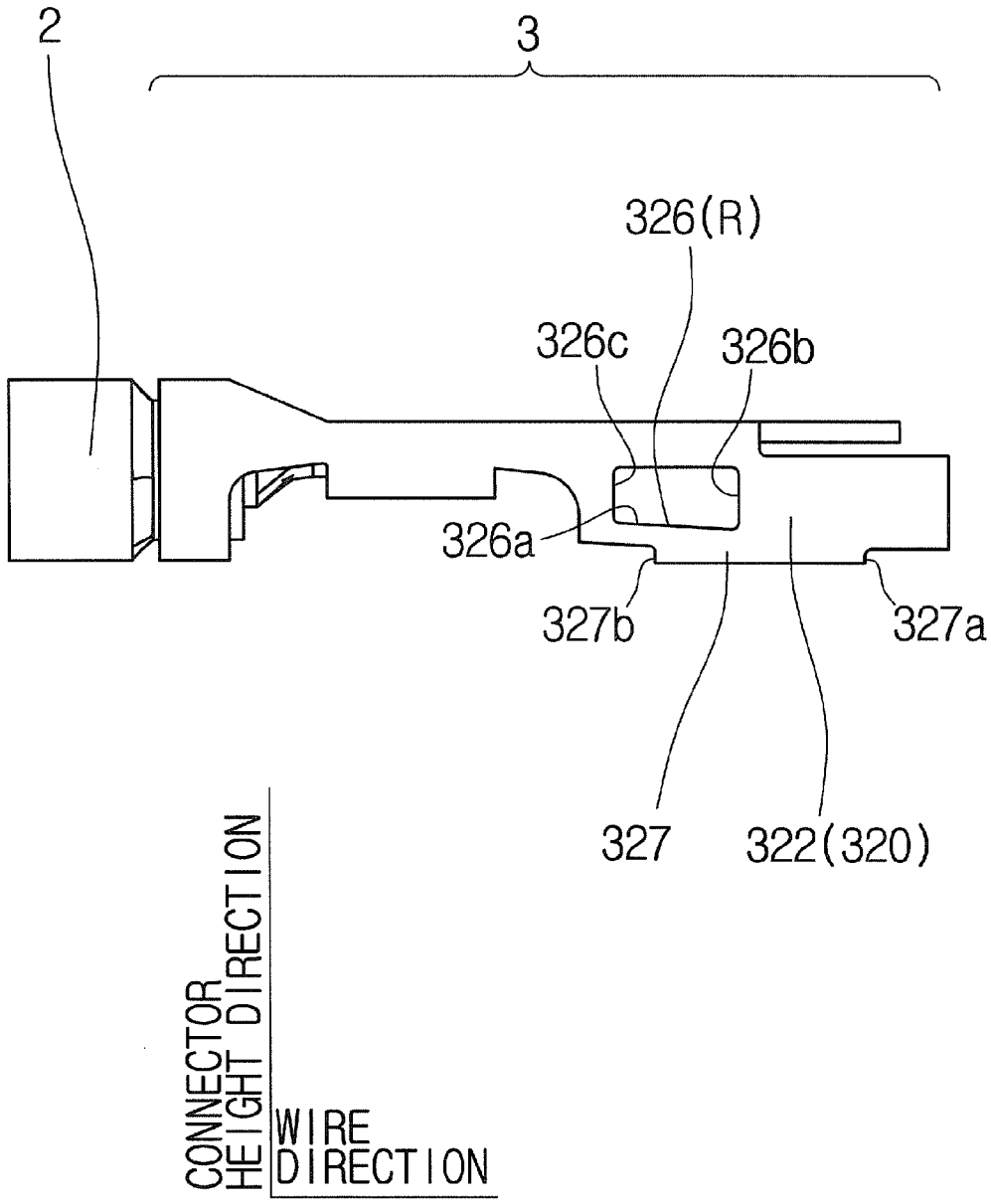

2
3
326(R)
326c
326b
326a
327b
327a
327
322(320)
CONNECTOR HEIGHT DIRECTION
WIRE DIRECTION

Fig. 20

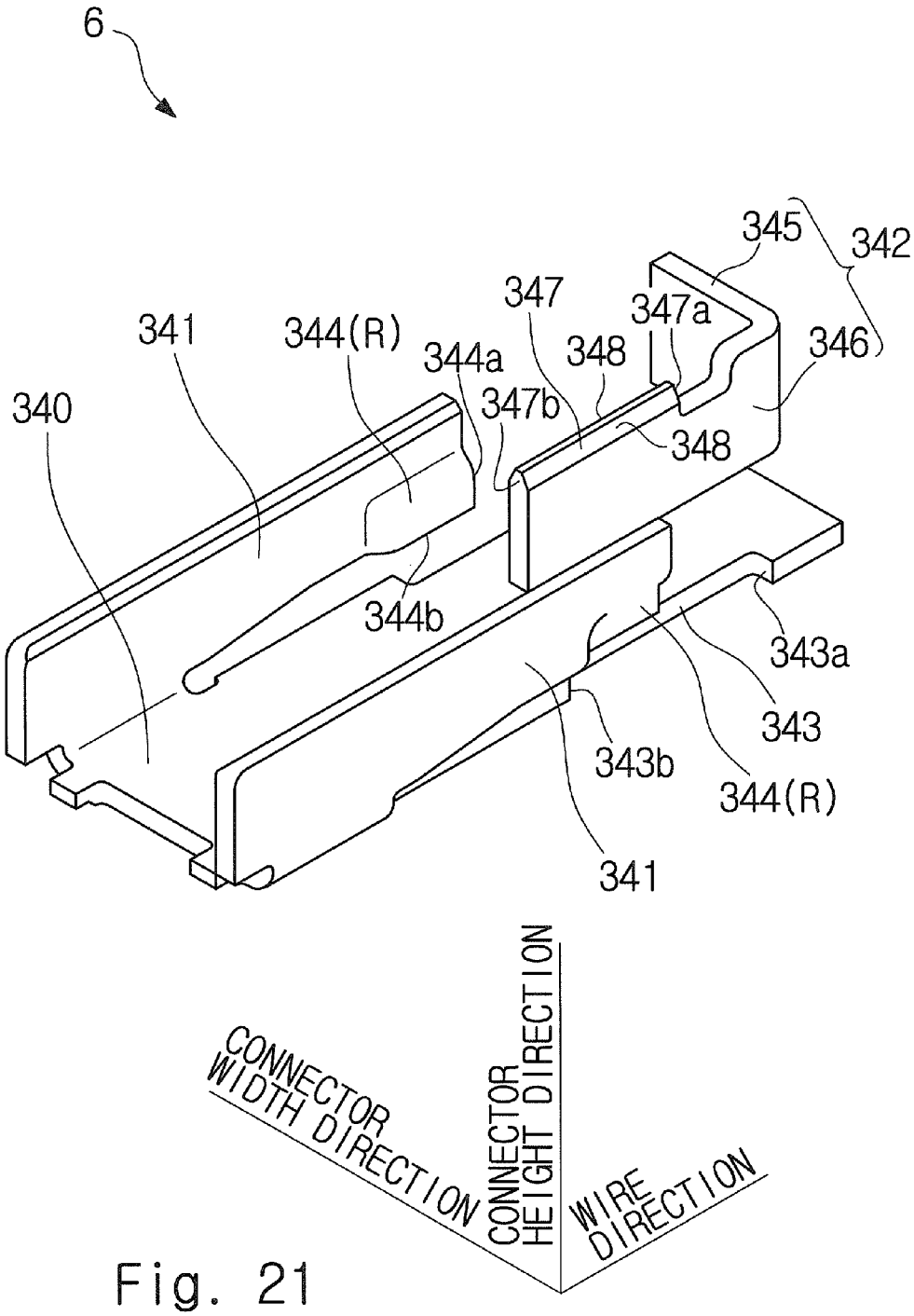
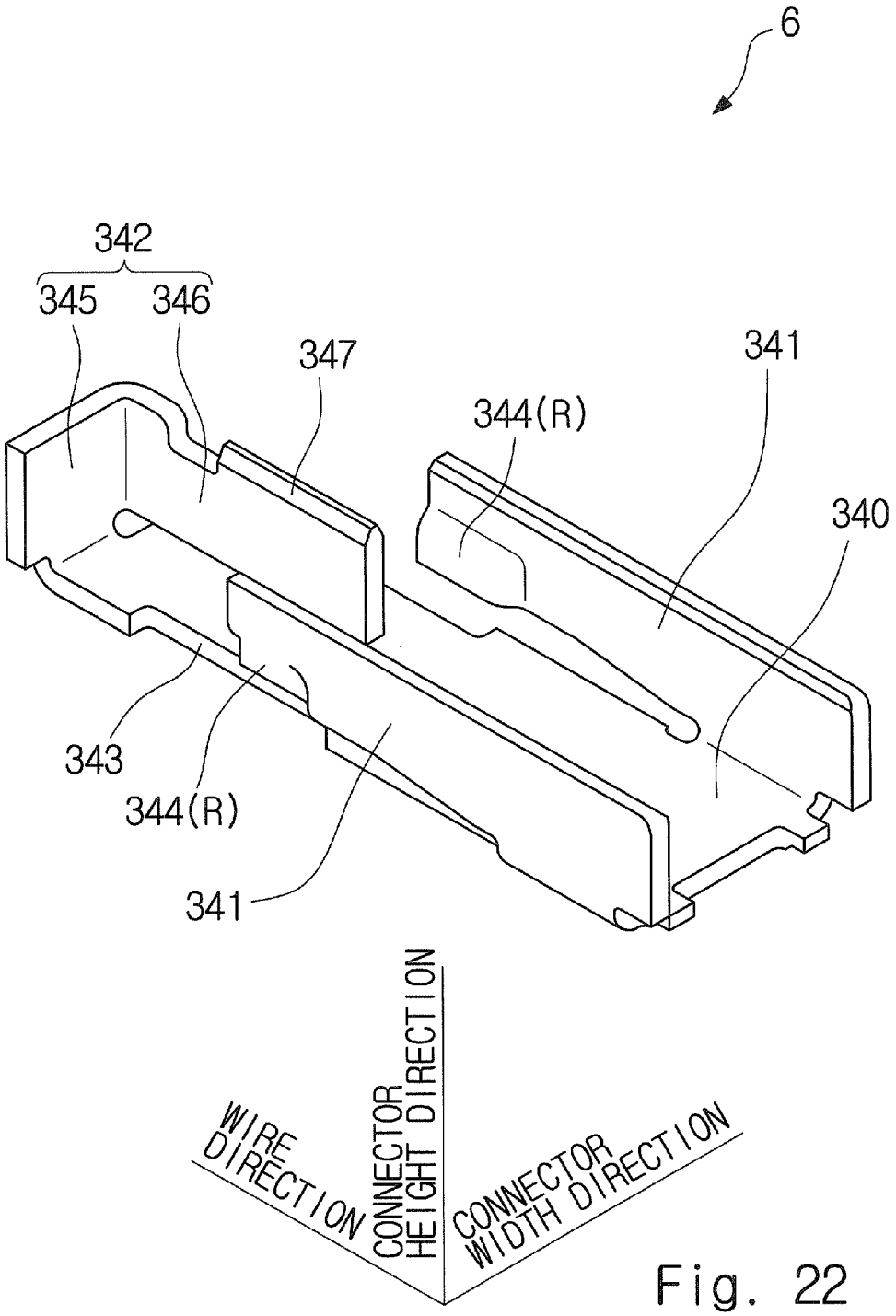

6
345
342
347
347a
341
344(R)
344a
348
346
340
347b
348
344b
343a
343
343b
344(R)
341
CONNECTOR WIDTH DIRECTION
CONNECTOR HEIGHT DIRECTION
WIRE DIRECTION

Fig. 21


6
342
345
346
347
341
344(R)
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343
344(R)
341
WIRE DIRECTION
CONNECTOR HEIGHT DIRECTION
CONNECTOR WIDTH DIRECTION

Fig. 22

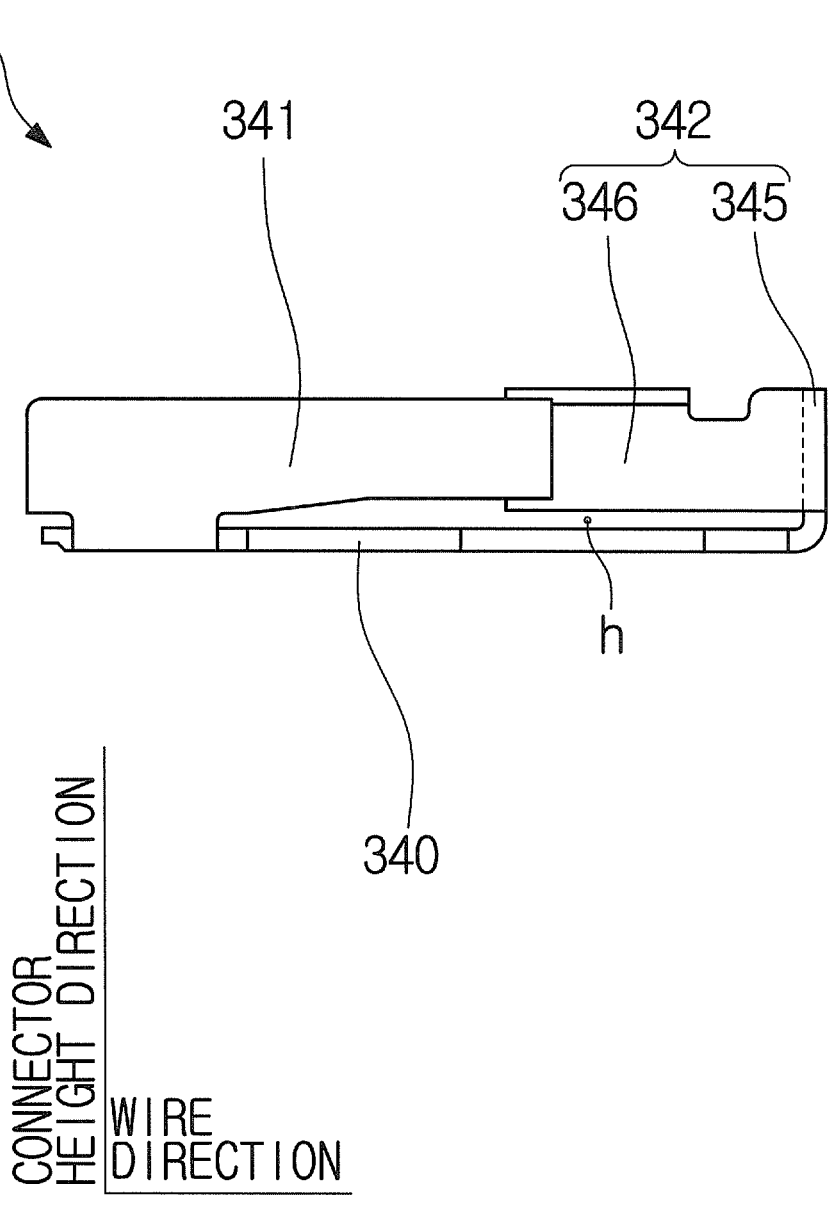

6
341
342
346
345
h
340
CONNECTOR HEIGHT DIRECTION
WIRE DIRECTION

Fig. 23

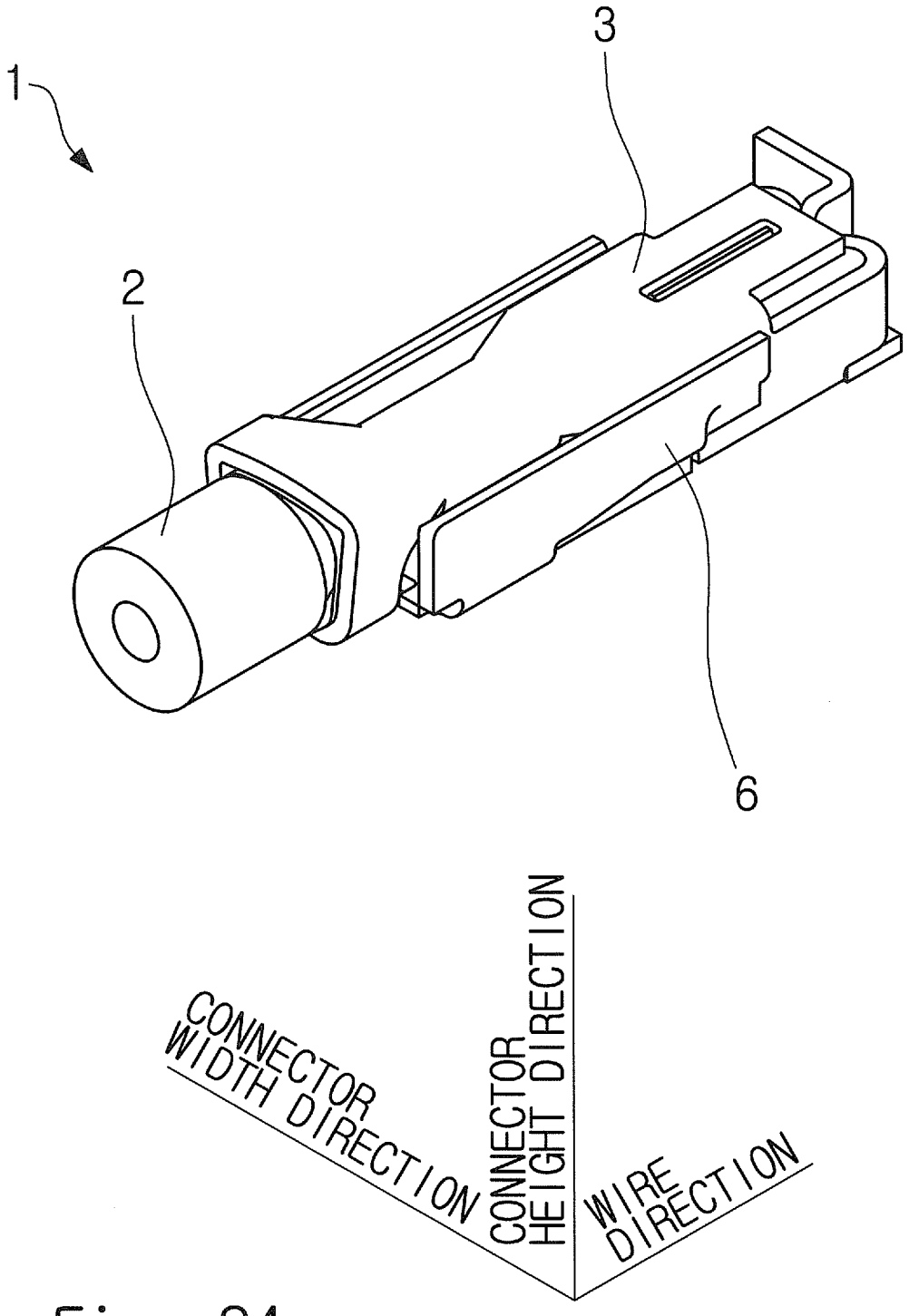

1
2
3
6
CONNECTOR WIDTH DIRECTION
CONNECTOR HEIGHT DIRECTION
WIRE DIRECTION

Fig. 24

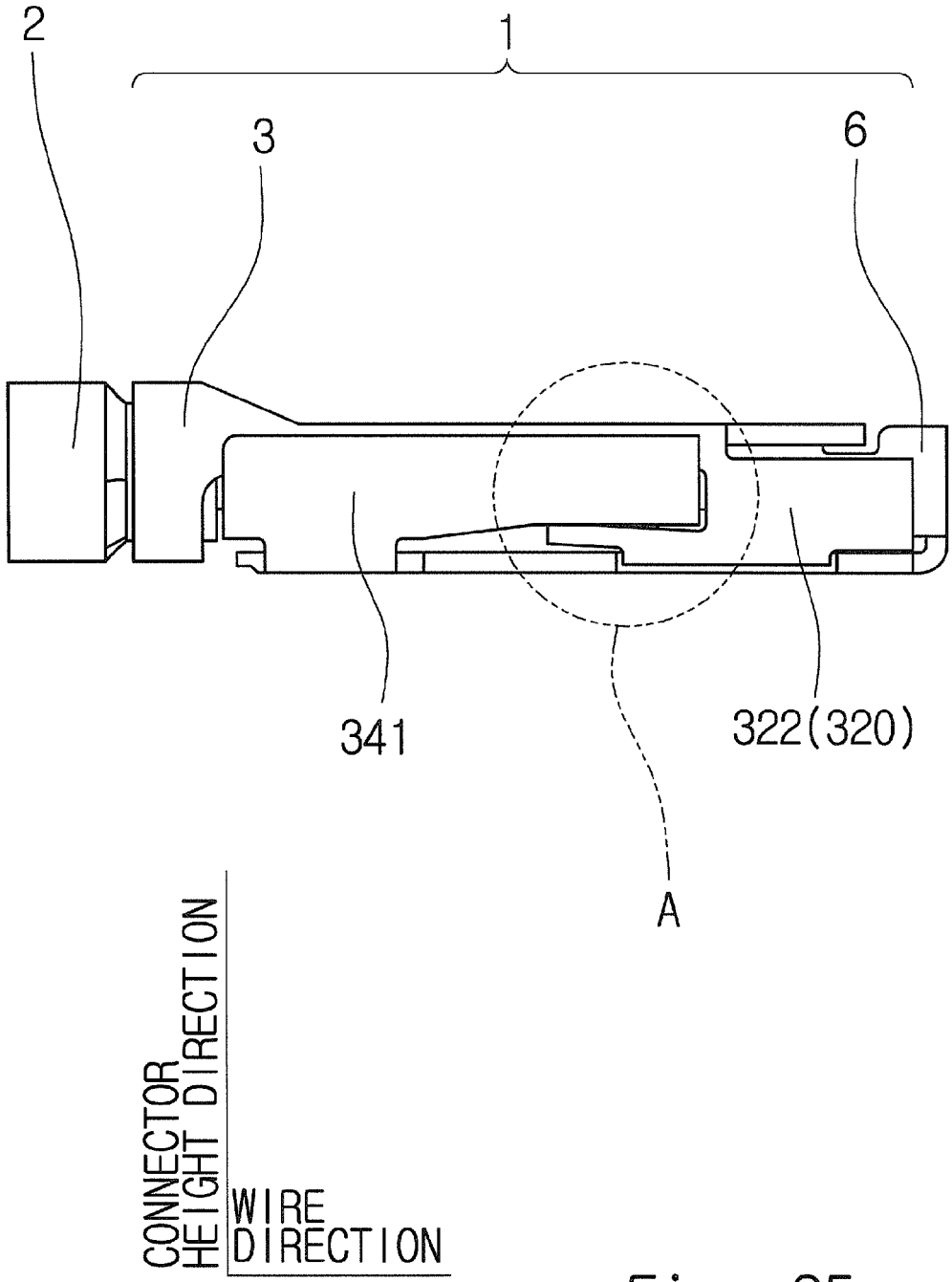

2
1
3
6
341
322(320)
A
CONNECTOR HEIGHT DIRECTION
WIRE DIRECTION

Fig. 25

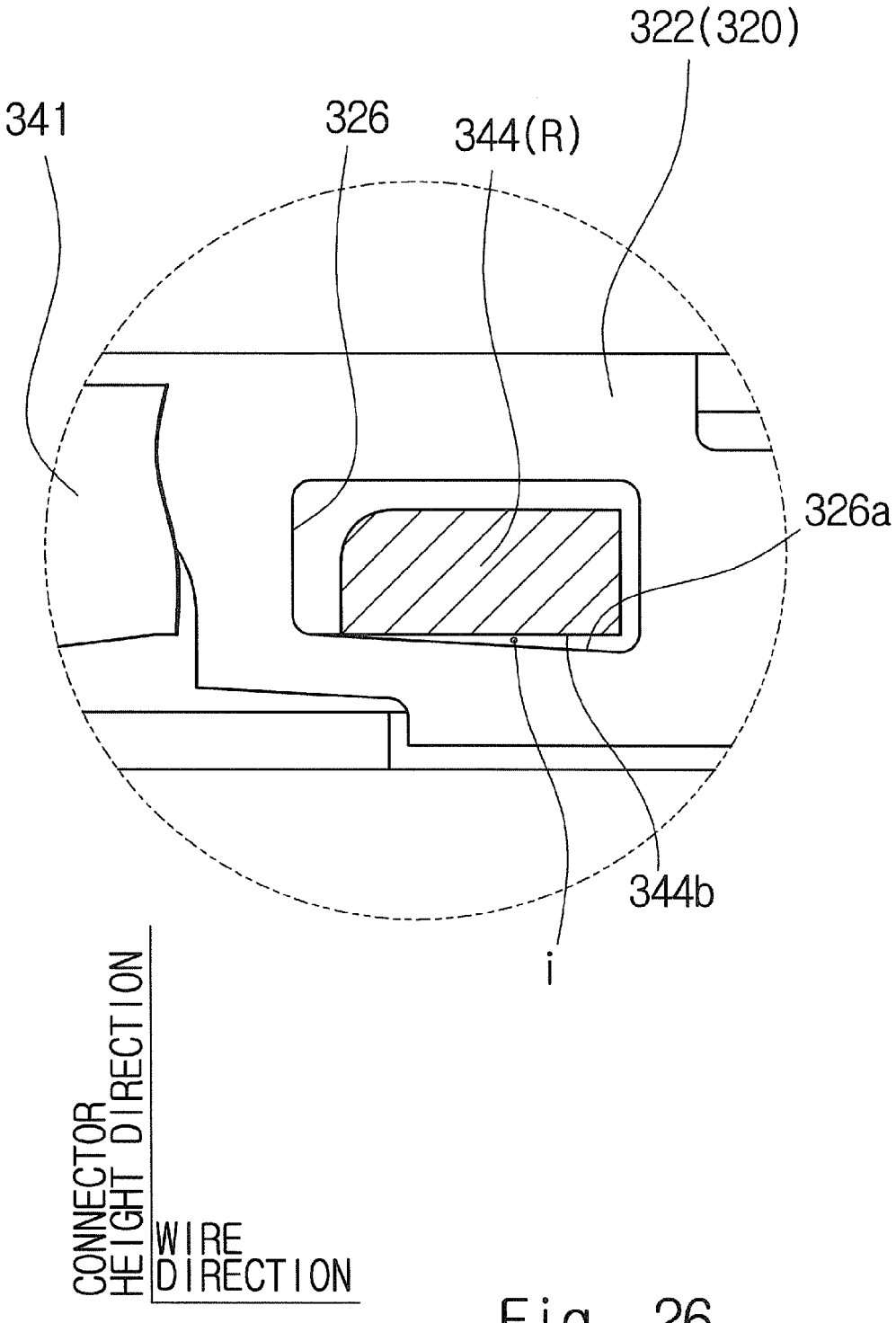

322(320)
341
326
344(R)
326a
344b
i
CONNECTOR HEIGHT DIRECTION
WIRE DIRECTION

Fig. 26

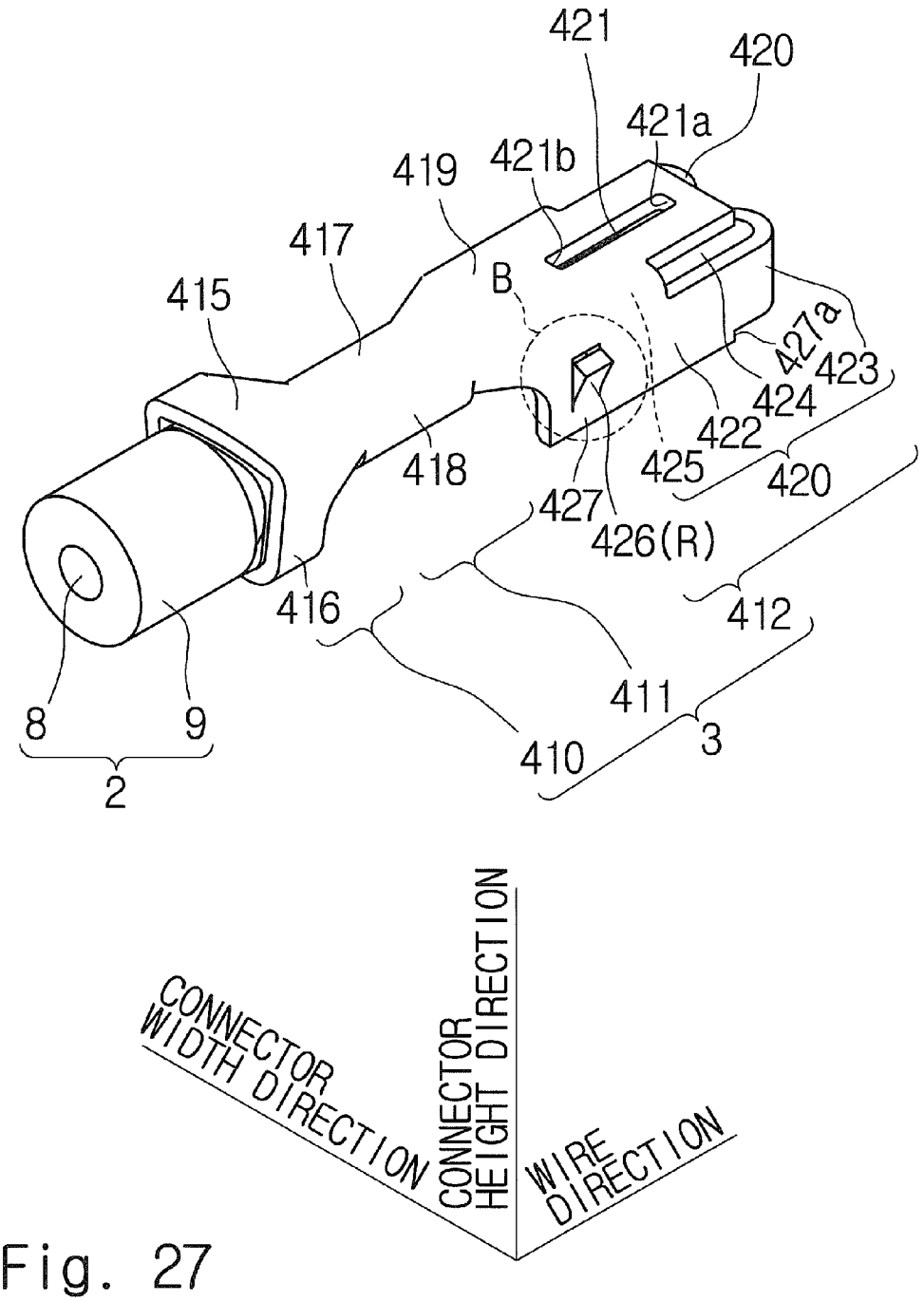

421
420
421a
421b
419
417
415
B
427a
423
424
422
418
425
420
427
426(R)
416
412
411
410
3
8
9
2
CONNECTOR WIDTH DIRECTION
CONNECTOR HEIGHT DIRECTION
WIRE DIRECTION

Fig. 27

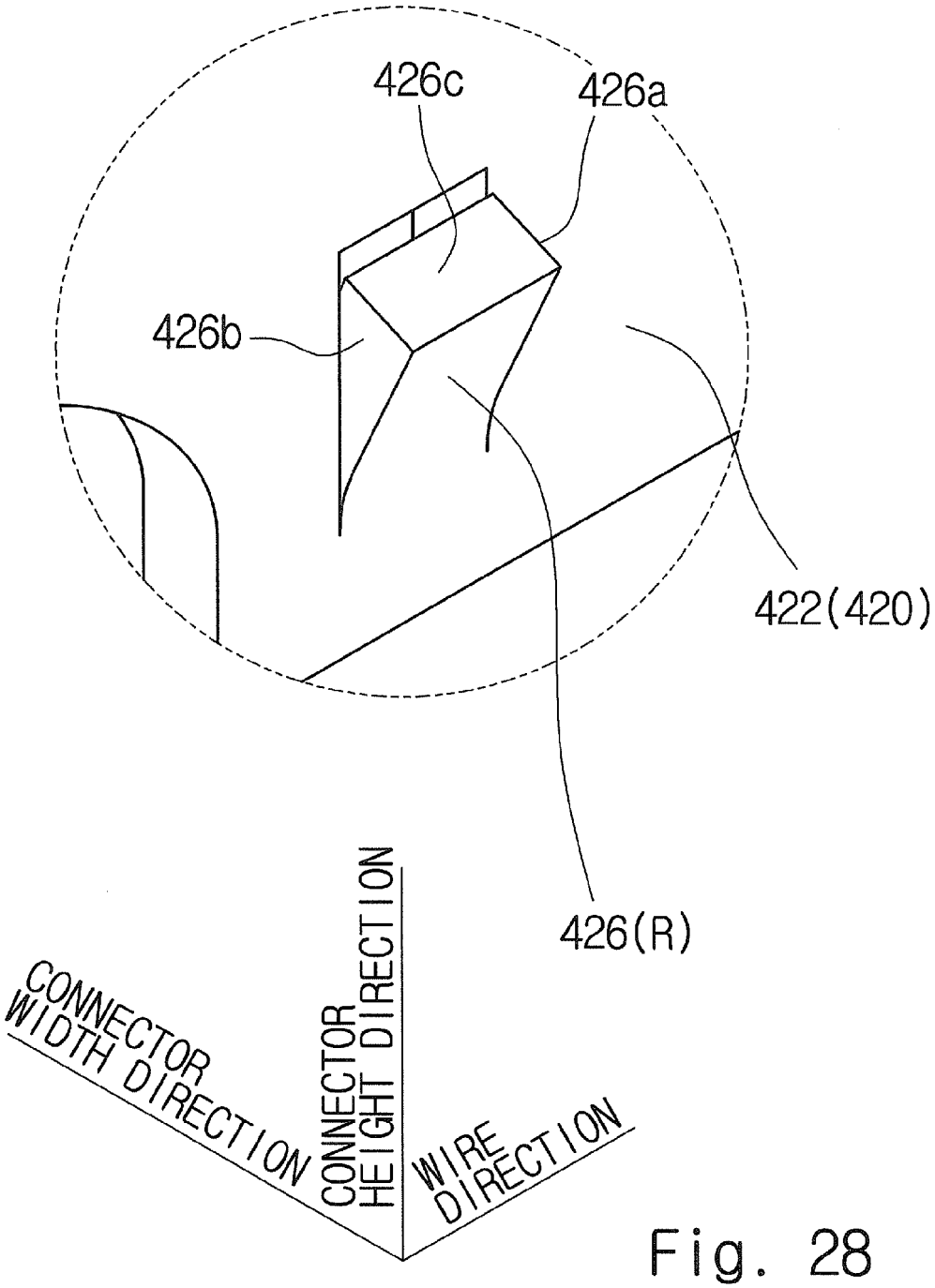

426c
426a
426b
422(420)
426(R)
CONNECTOR WIDTH DIRECTION
CONNECTOR HEIGHT DIRECTION
WIRE DIRECTION

Fig. 28

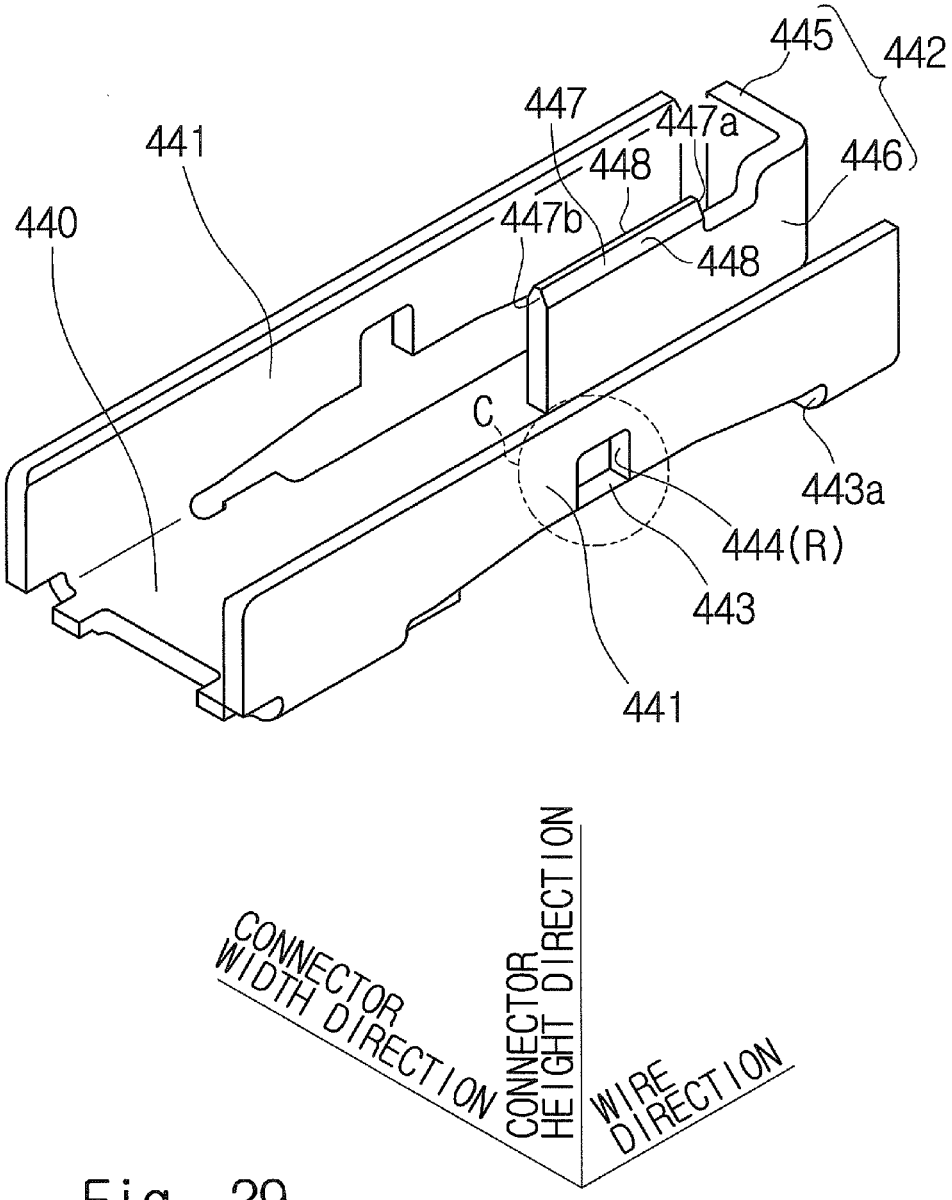

445
442
447
447a
441
448
446
440
447b
448
C
443a
444(R)
443
441
CONNECTOR WIDTH DIRECTION
CONNECTOR HEIGHT DIRECTION
WIRE DIRECTION

Fig. 29

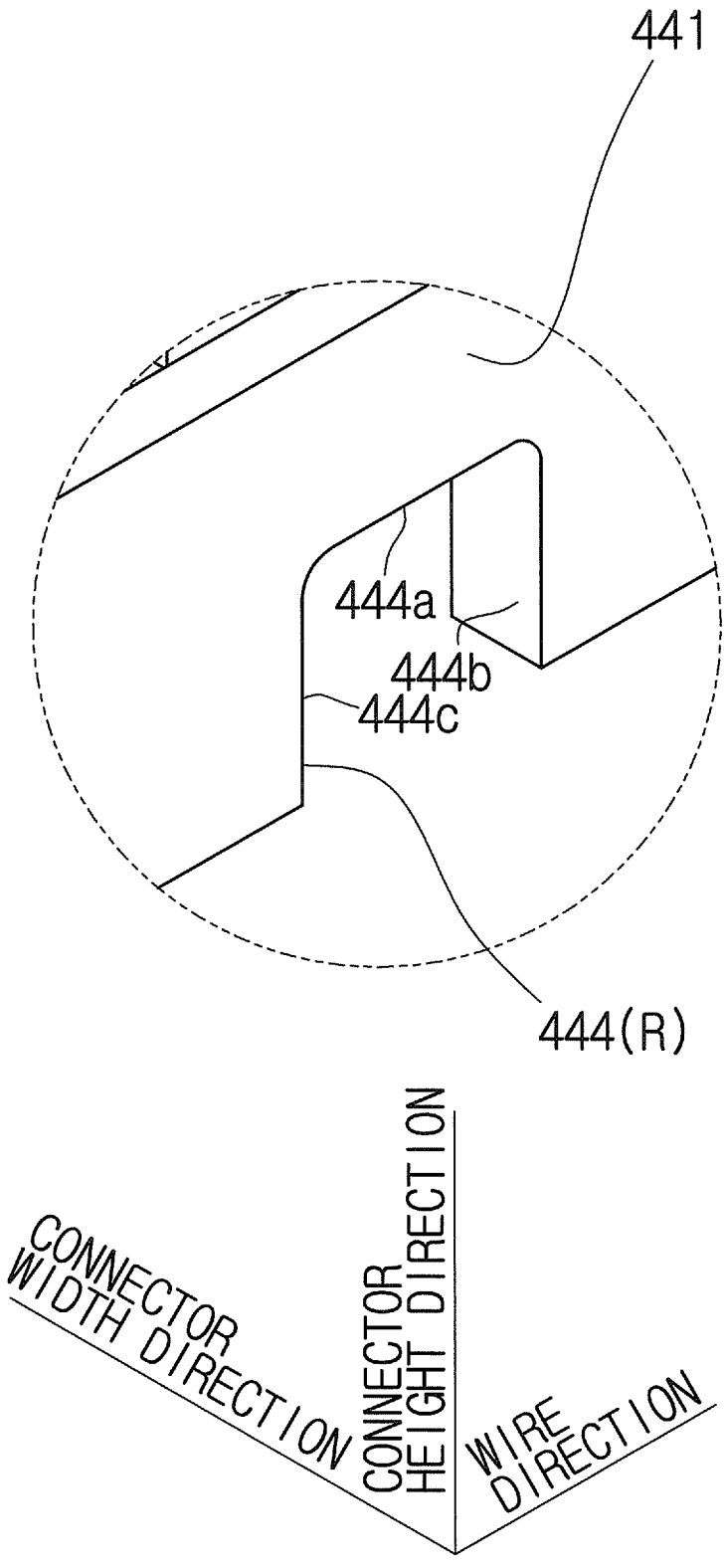
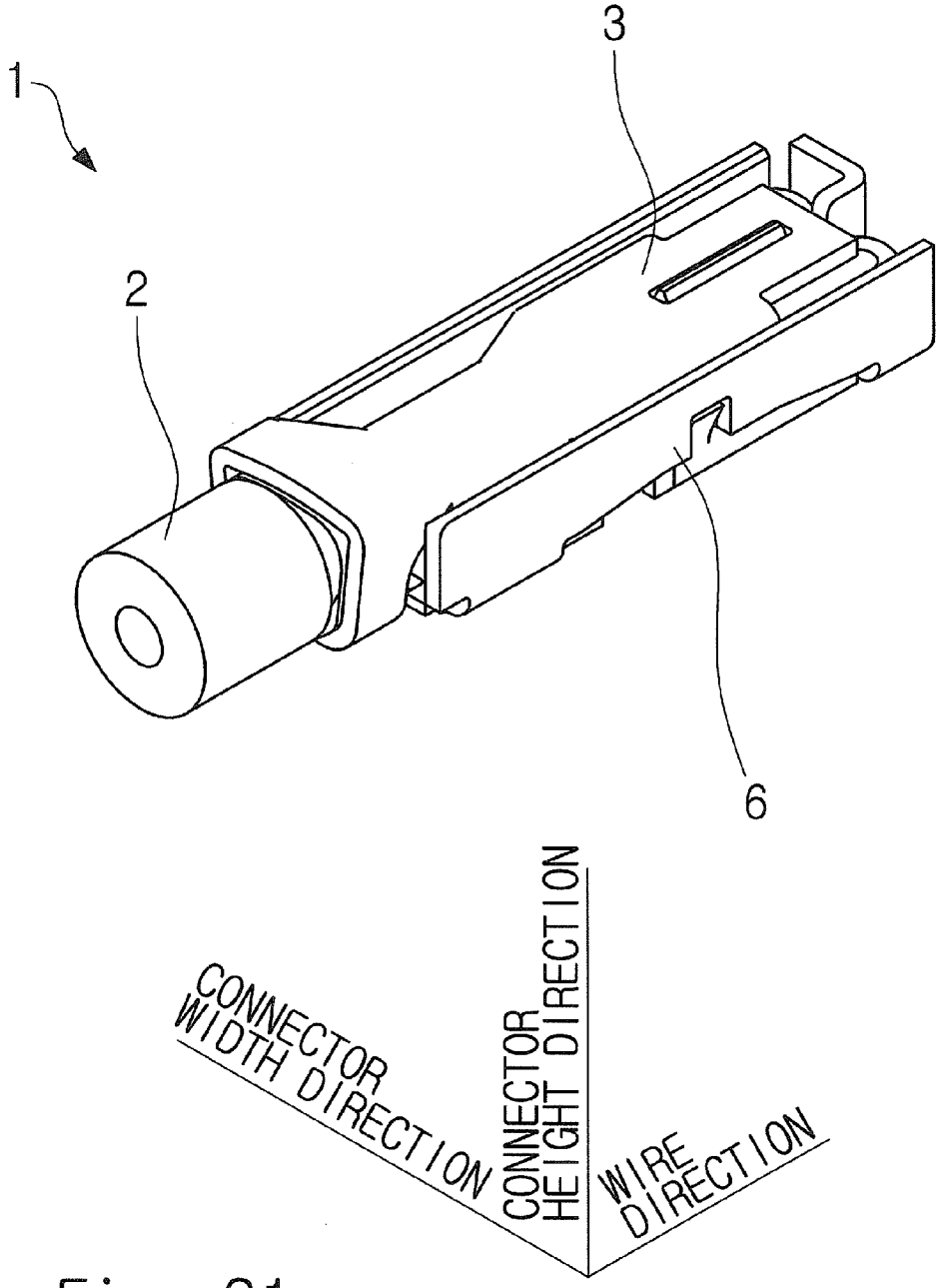

441
444a
444b
444c
444(R)
CONNECTOR WIDTH DIRECTION
CONNECTOR HEIGHT DIRECTION
WIRE DIRECTION

Fig. 30


1
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CONNECTOR WIDTH DIRECTION
CONNECTOR HEIGHT DIRECTION
WIRE DIRECTION

Fig. 31

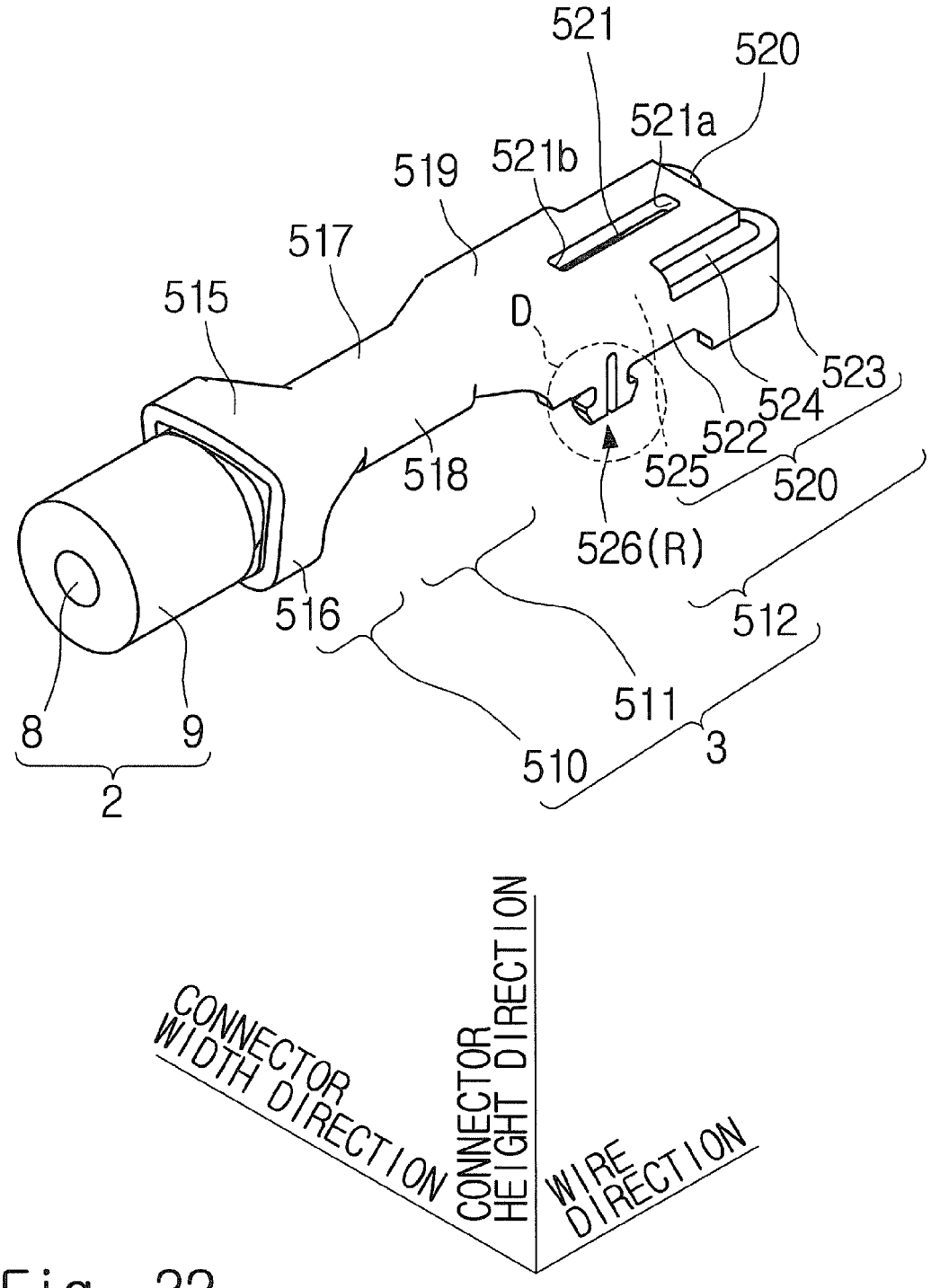

521
520
521a
521b
519
517
515
D
523
524
522
525
520
518
526(R)
516
512
511
510
3
8
9
2
CONNECTOR WIDTH DIRECTION
CONNECTOR HEIGHT DIRECTION
WIRE DIRECTION

Fig. 32

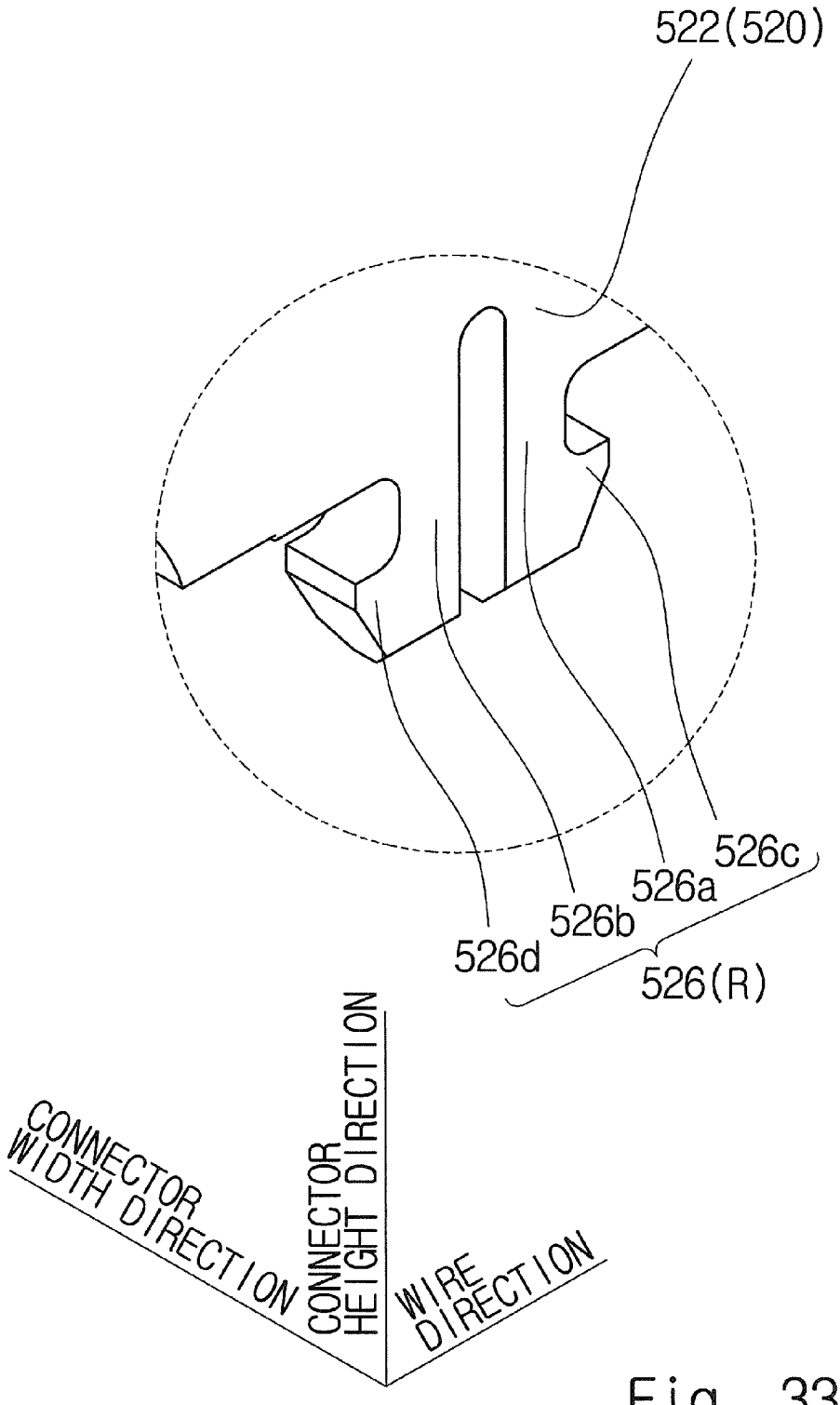

522(520)
526c
526a
526b
526d
526(R)
CONNECTOR WIDTH DIRECTION
CONNECTOR HEIGHT DIRECTION
WIRE DIRECTION

Fig. 33

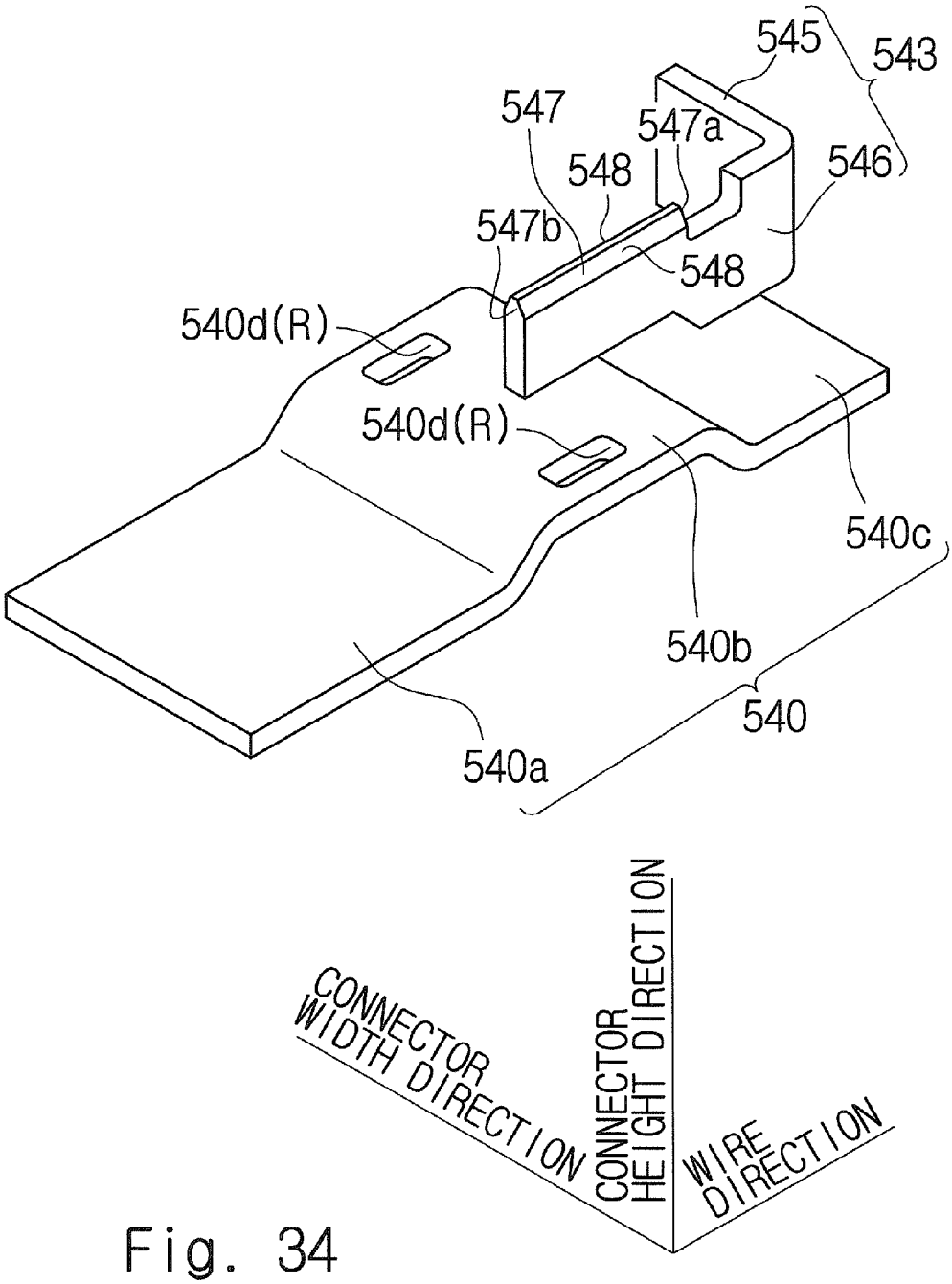
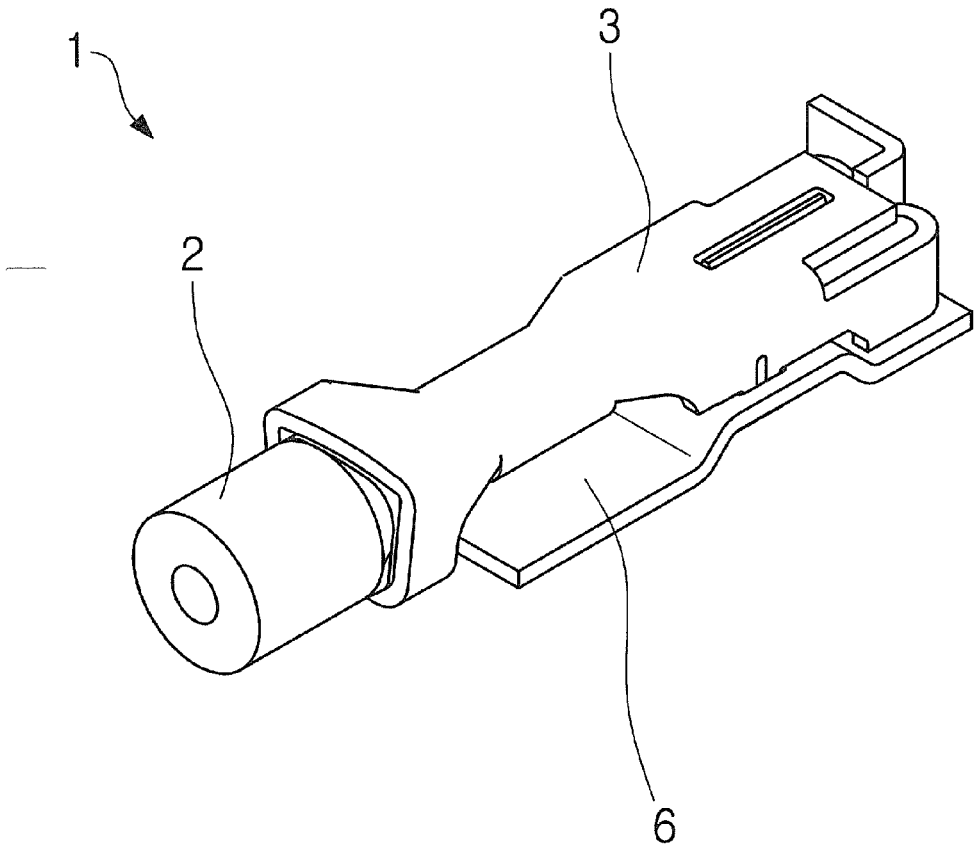

545
543
547
547a
548
546
547b
548
540d(R)
540d(R)
540c
540b
540
540a
CONNECTOR WIDTH DIRECTION
CONNECTOR HEIGHT DIRECTION
WIRE DIRECTION

Fig. 34


1
2
3
6

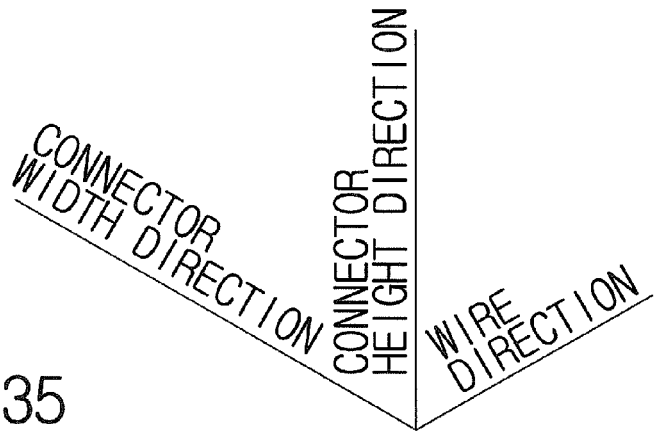

CONNECTOR WIDTH DIRECTION
CONNECTOR HEIGHT DIRECTION
WIRE DIRECTION

Fig. 35

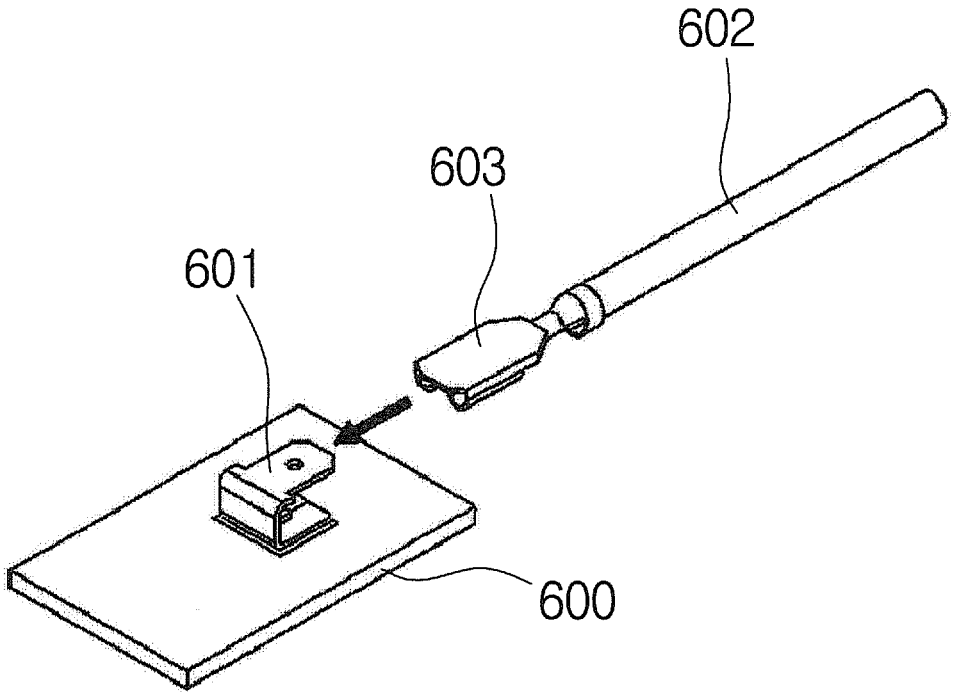


Fig. 36

WIRE-TO-BOARD CONNECTOR

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §371 to International Patent Application No. PCT/JP2013/000510 filed Jan. 30, 2013 and Japanese Patent Application No. 2012-074033 filed Mar. 28, 2012, the disclosures of which are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a wire-to-board connector.

BACKGROUND ART

As a technique of this type, Patent Literature 1 discloses a structure in which a wire-side fast-on tab terminal 603 with a wire 602 is connected to a low-height type surface mounting fast-on tab terminal 601 which is mounted on the surface of a board 600, as shown in FIG. **36** of this application. As indicated by the thick arrow in FIG. **36**, the direction in which the wire-side fast-on tab terminal 603 is connected to the low-height type surface mounting fast-on tab terminal 601 is designed to be parallel to the board 600, thereby suppressing the mounting height.

CITATION LIST

Patent Literature

[Patent Literature 1] Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 2010-186663

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

Technical Problem

However, in the structure disclosed in Patent Literature 1 described above, the workability significantly deteriorates with increased miniaturization of the connector itself

It is an object of the present invention to provide a wire-to-board connector with excellent workability.

Solution to Problem

According to an aspect of the present invention, there is provided a wire-to-board connector including: a first terminal that is attached to a wire; and a second terminal that is mounted on a connector mounting surface of a board, the first terminal and the second terminal being each formed of metal, and the first terminal being mated with the second terminal to thereby connect the wire to the board. When the first terminal is mated with the second terminal, a wire direction corresponding to a longitudinal direction of the wire in the vicinity of the first terminal is parallel to the connector mounting surface of the board, and a mating direction in which the first terminal is mated with the second terminal is a direction approaching the connector mounting surface of the board.

Preferably, the mating direction is a direction orthogonal to the connector mounting surface of the board.

Preferably, the second terminal includes a base plate portion opposed to the connector mounting surface of the board, and a pair of side plate portions that sandwich the first terminal mated with the second terminal in a wire orthogonal direction orthogonal to the wire direction.

Preferably, the second terminal includes a guide rod portion extending so as to be away from the connector mounting surface of the board, and the first terminal has a guide hole portion into which the guide rod portion is inserted.

Preferably, the first terminal includes a pair of contact beams having a beam shape, and the second terminal includes a contact piece that is inserted between the pair of contact beams.

Preferably, the pair of contact beams is formed in a cantilever shape.

Preferably, the contact piece is formed so as to be away from the base plate portion.

Preferably, the contact piece is supported by one of the pair of side plate portions.

Preferably, the first terminal includes a flat plate-like pushing plate portion that is disposed opposite to the board with the pair of contact beams interposed therebetween and is orthogonal to the mating direction.

Preferably, at least one of the first terminal and the second terminal has a lock mechanism that prevents disengagement of the first terminal from the second terminal.

Preferably, the second terminal includes a pair of lock beams that are respectively supported by the pair of side plate portions and extend in a beam shape in the wire direction, and a pair of claw portions that are respectively supported by the pair of lock beams and protrude so as to approach each other; the first terminal is formed to be caught on the pair of claw portions of the second terminal when the first terminal is mated with the second terminal; and the pair of lock beams and the pair of claw portions constitute the lock mechanism.

Preferably, the first terminal includes a central conductor holding portion that holds a central conductor of the wire, and the central conductor holding portion of the first terminal is formed to be caught on the pair of claw portions of the second terminal when the first terminal is mated with the second terminal.

Preferably, the second terminal includes a pair of inclined portions that are respectively connected to the pair of side plate portions and are inclined so as to be gradually spaced apart from each other in a direction away from the connector mounting surface of the board.

Advantageous Effects of Invention

According to the present invention, a first terminal can be mated with a second terminal with excellent workability.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of a wire-to-board connector in use (first embodiment);

FIG. **2** is a perspective view of the wire-to-board connector in a state before a plug is attached to a receptacle (first embodiment);

FIG. **3** is a perspective view of the plug (first embodiment);

FIG. **4** is a perspective view of the plug when viewed from another angle (first embodiment);

FIG. **5** is a perspective view of the receptacle (first embodiment);

FIG. **6** is a perspective view of the receptacle when viewed from another angle (first embodiment);

FIG. **7** is a side view of the receptacle (first embodiment);

FIG. **8** is a perspective view of the wire-to-board connector in a state where the plug is attached to the receptacle (first embodiment);

FIG. **9** is a perspective view of a receptacle (second embodiment);

FIG. **10** is a perspective view of a wire-to-board connector in a state where a plug is attached to the receptacle (second embodiment);

FIG. **11** is a perspective view of a plug (third embodiment);

FIG. **12** is a perspective view of the plug when viewed from another angle (third embodiment);

FIG. **13** is a perspective view of a receptacle (third embodiment);

FIG. **14** is a perspective view of the receptacle when viewed from another angle (third embodiment);

FIG. **15** is a perspective view of a wire-to-board connector in a state where the plug is attached to the receptacle (third embodiment);

FIG. **16** is a perspective view of a wire-to-board connector in use (fourth embodiment);

FIG. **17** is a perspective view of the wire-to-board connector in a state before a plug is attached to a receptacle (fourth embodiment);

FIG. **18** is a perspective view of the plug (fourth embodiment);

FIG. **19** is a perspective view of the plug when viewed from another angle (fourth embodiment);

FIG. **20** is a side view of the plug (fourth embodiment);

FIG. **21** is a perspective view of the receptacle (fourth embodiment);

FIG. **22** is a perspective view of the receptacle when viewed from another angle (fourth embodiment);

FIG. **23** is a side view of the receptacle (fourth embodiment);

FIG. **24** is a perspective view of the wire-to-board connector in a state where the plug is attached to the receptacle (fourth embodiment);

FIG. **25** is a side view of the wire-to-board connector (fourth embodiment);

FIG. **26** is an enlarged view of a portion "A" shown in FIG. **25**, and shows a lock raised portion accommodated in a lock hole portion (fourth embodiment);

FIG. **27** is a perspective view of a plug (fifth embodiment);

FIG. **28** is an enlarged view of a portion "B" shown in FIG. **27** (fifth embodiment);

FIG. **29** is a perspective view of a receptacle (fifth embodiment);

FIG. **30** is an enlarged view of a portion "C" shown in FIG. **29**, in which illustration of a base plate portion is omitted for convenience of explanation (fifth embodiment);

FIG. **31** is a perspective view of a wire-to-board connector in a state where the plug is attached to the receptacle (fifth embodiment);

FIG. **32** is a perspective view of a plug (sixth embodiment);

FIG. **33** is an enlarged view of a portion "D" shown in FIG. **32** (sixth embodiment);

FIG. **34** is a perspective view of a receptacle (sixth embodiment);

FIG. **35** is a perspective view of a wire-to-board connector in a state where the plug is attached to the receptacle (sixth embodiment); and

FIG. **36** is a diagram corresponding to FIG. 1 of Patent Literature 1.

DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

First Embodiment

A first embodiment of the present invention will be described below with reference to FIGS. **1** to **8**.

As shown in FIGS. **1** and **2**, a wire-to-board connector **1** includes a plug **3** (first terminal) which is attached to a wire **2**, and a receptacle **6** (second terminal) which is mounted on a connector mounting surface **5** of a board **4**. The plug **3** and the receptacle **6** are each formed of metal. The plug **3** and the receptacle **6** are formed by sheet metal bending. The plug **3** and the receptacle **6** are each a so-called insulator-less terminal (housing-less terminal) with no insulator. The plug **3** is mated with the receptacle **6**, thereby allowing the wire **2** to be electrically connected to the board **4**.

The terms "wire direction", "connector height direction", and "connector width direction" are now defined. As shown in FIG. **1**, the term "wire direction" refers to a direction corresponding to the longitudinal direction of the wire **2** in the vicinity of the plug **3** when the plug **3** is mated with the receptacle **6**. In this embodiment, the "wire direction" is set to be parallel to the connector mounting surface **5** of the board **4**. In the "wire direction", a direction in which the plug **3** is viewed from the wire **2** is defined as a "wire plug direction" and a direction in which the wire **2** is viewed from the plug **3** is defined as a "plug wire direction". The term "connector height direction" refers to a direction orthogonal to the connector mounting surface **5** of the board **4**. In the "connector height direction", a direction approaching the connector mounting surface **5** of the board **4** is defined as a "board approaching direction" and a direction separating from the connector mounting surface **5** of the board **4** is defined as a "board separating direction". The term "connector width direction" refers to a direction orthogonal to each of the wire direction and the connector height direction. In the "connector width direction", a direction approaching the center of the wire-to-board connector **1** is defined as a "connector width center direction" and a direction separating from the center of the wire-to-board connector **1** is defined as a "connector width anti-center direction".

As shown in FIG. **2**, a mating direction P in which the plug **3** is mated with the receptacle **6** is a direction approaching the connector mounting surface **5** of the board **4**. Accordingly, when other parts are disposed at a high density in the vicinity of the receptacle **6**, for example, the workability that allows the plug **3** to be mated with the receptacle **6** is favorable. In this embodiment, the mating direction P coincides with the board approaching direction. Accordingly, the workability that allows the plug **3** to be mated with the receptacle **6** is more favorable.

(Board **4**)

As shown in FIGS. **1** and **2**, the board **4** is a rigid board, such as a paper phenol board, in this embodiment. Instead of a rigid board, a flexible board can be used as the board **4**. On the connector mounting surface **5** of the board **4**, an electrode pad **7** to which the receptacle **6** is soldered is formed.

(Wire **2**)

As shown in FIG. **3**, the wire **2** includes a strand wire **8** serving as a central conductor, and an insulation **9**. The strand wire **8** is coated with the insulation **9**. Instead of the strand wire **8**, a solid wire can be used as the central conductor of the wire **2**.

(Plug **3**)

FIGS. **3** and **4** show the plug **3** in a state where the wire **2** is attached to the plug **3**. As shown in FIGS. **3** and **4**, the plug **3** is formed to be elongated along the wire direction. The plug **3** includes a wire holding portion **10**, a wire connecting portion **11** (central conductor holding portion), and a plug body **12**, which are formed in the stated order in the wire plug direction. The plug **3** is integrally formed with the wire holding portion **10**, the wire connecting portion **11**, and the plug body **12**.

The wire holding portion **10** is a portion that crimps and holds the insulation **9** of the wire **2**. The wire holding portion **10** includes a base plate portion **15** and a pair of holding

portions **16**. The base plate portion **15** is a flat plate-like portion orthogonal to the connector height direction. The pair of holding portions **16** are respectively connected to both ends in the connector width direction of the base plate portion **15** and protrude in the board separating direction. An end in the board separating direction of each holding portion **16** is bent by a dedicated crimp tool and is thus curved in the connector width center direction.

The wire connecting portion **11** is a portion that crimps and holds the strand wire **8** of the wire **2**. The wire connecting portion **11** is electrically connected to the strand wire **8** of the wire **2**. The wire connecting portion **11** includes a base plate portion **17** and a pair of holding portions **18**. The base plate portion **17** is a flat plate-like portion orthogonal to the connector height direction. The base plate portion **17** is connected to an end in the wire plug direction of the base plate portion **15** of the wire holding portion **10**. The pair of holding portions **18** are respectively connected to both ends in the connector width direction of the base plate portion **17** and protrude in the board separating direction. Each holding portion **18** is bent by a dedicated crimp tool and is thus curved in a C-shape in the connector width center direction. Each holding portion **18** is curved so as to swell out in the board separating direction.

The plug body **12** includes a base plate portion **19**, an erect rod guide portion **20**, a pair of contact beams **23**, a pair of pushing plate portions **24**, and a pair of contact piece guide portions **25**.

The base plate portion **19** is a flat plate-like portion orthogonal to the connector height direction. The base plate portion **19** is connected to an end in the wire plug direction of the base plate portion **17** of the wire connecting portion **11**.

The erect rod guide portion **20** is a flat plate-like portion orthogonal to the connector height direction. The erect rod guide portion **20** is connected to an end in the wire plug direction of the base plate portion **19**. The erect rod guide portion **20** has an erect rod guide hole portion **22** (guide hole portion) formed therein. The erect rod guide hole portion **22** is formed so as to penetrate a substantially central portion of the erect rod guide portion **20** in the connector height direction.

The pair of contact beams **23**, the pair of pushing plate portions **24**, and the pair of contact piece guide portions **25** are each formed in a symmetrical shape in the connector width direction. Accordingly, only one of each pair will be described, and the description of the other one of each pair will be omitted.

The contact beam **23** is a portion that functions as a contact with the receptacle **6**. The contact beam **23** is formed in a beam shape. The contact beam **23** is formed in a cantilever shape. The contact beam **23** is a cantilever supported by the base plate portion **19**. The contact beam **23** is connected to an end in the connector width direction of the base plate portion **19**, and is positioned so as to be erected at a right angle with respect to the base plate portion **19**. The contact beam **23** is formed so as to extend in the wire plug direction when viewed from the base plate portion **19**. The contact beam **23** includes a proximal end **23***a*, an inclined portion **23***b*, and a distal end **23***c*, which are formed in the stated order in the wire plug direction. The proximal end **23***a* is a flat plate-like portion that is connected to an end in the connector width direction of the base plate portion **19** and is orthogonal to the connector width direction. The inclined portion **23***b* is a flat plate-like portion that is connected to an end in the wire plug direction of the proximal end **23***a* and is inclined in the connector width center direction toward the wire plug direction. The distal end **23***c* is a flat plate-like portion that is connected to an end in the wire plug direction of the inclined portion **23***b* and is orthogonal to the connector width direction. Due to the presence of the inclined portion **23***b*, the distance between the distal end **23***c* of one of the contact beams **23** and the distal end **23***c* of the other contact beam **23** is smaller than the distance between the proximal end **23***a* of one of the contact beams **23** and the proximal end **23***a* of the other contact beam **23**. The distance between the distal end **23***c* of one of the contact beams **23** and the distal end **23***c* of the other contact beam **23** is set to be smaller than the thickness of the receptacle **6**. Specifically, the distance between the distal end **23***c* of one of the contact beams **23** and the distal end **23***c* of the other contact beam **23** is set to be smaller than the thickness of a contact piece **47** (also see FIG. **5**) of the receptacle **6** which is described later. Due to the presence of the proximal end **23***a* and the inclined portion **23***b*, the distal end **23***c* is elastically displaceable in the connector width anti-center direction.

The pushing plate portion **24** is a flat plate-like portion that is connected to an end in the board separating direction of the proximal end **23***a* of the contact beam **23** and extends in the connector width center direction. The pushing plate portion **24** is orthogonal to the connector height direction. Accordingly, it can be said that the pushing plate portion **24** is disposed opposite to the board **4** with the contact beam **23** interposed therebetween. The distance between one of the pushing plate portions **24** and the other pushing plate portion **24** is set to be as small as possible.

The contact piece guide portion **25** is a flat plate-like portion that is connected to an end in the board approaching direction of the distal end **23***c* of the contact beam **23** and is inclined in the connector width anti-center direction toward the board approaching direction.

(Receptacle **6**)

As shown in FIGS. **5** to **7**, the receptacle **6** is formed to be elongated in the wire direction. The receptacle **6** includes a base plate portion **40**, a pair of side plate portions **41**, an erect rod **42** (guide rod portion), a contact unit **43**, a pair of guide inclined portions **44** (inclined portions), and a pair of lock units **49**.

The base plate portion **40** is a portion that is soldered to the electrode pad **7** (see FIGS. **1** and **2**) on the connector mounting surface **5** of the board **4**. The base plate portion **40** is formed in a flat plate shape orthogonal to the connector height direction. The base plate portion **40** has a rectangular shape and is formed to be elongated along the wire direction.

The pair of side plate portions **41** is formed in a symmetrical shape in the connector width direction. Accordingly, only one of the pair will be described, and the description of the other one of the pair will be omitted. The side plate portion **41** is connected to an end in the connector width direction at an end in the wire plug direction of the base plate portion **40**, and is formed to protrude in the board separating direction. The side plate portion **41** is positioned so as to be erected at a right angle with respect to the base plate portion **40**. That is, the side plate portion **41** is in a position orthogonal to the connector width direction. The length of the side plate portion **41** in the wire direction is one-third of the length of the base plate portion **40** in the wire direction.

The erect rod **42** is a portion that is disposed at the center of the receptacle **6** in the connector width direction and is formed in a rod shape extending in the board separating direction from the base plate portion **40**. The erect rod **42** is formed by lancing the end in the wire plug direction of the base plate portion **40**. The erect rod **42** is positioned so as to be erected at a right angle with respect to the base plate portion **40**.

The contact unit **43** is a portion that functions as a contact with the plug **3**. The contact unit **43** is disposed at a location closer to a side in the wire plug direction than the base plate portion **40**, the pair of side plate portions **41**, and the erect rod **42**. The contact unit **43** is supported by one of the side plate portion **41**. The contact unit **43** includes a unit proximal end **45**, a unit intermediate portion **46**, and the contact piece **47**. The unit proximal end **45** is a portion that is connected to an end in the wire plug direction of one of the side plate portions **41** and extends in the wire plug direction. The unit proximal end **45** is orthogonal to the connector width direction. The unit intermediate portion **46** is a portion that is connected to an end in the wire plug direction of the unit proximal end **45** and extends in the connector width center direction. The unit intermediate portion **46** is orthogonal to the wire direction. The unit intermediate portion **46** extends to the center in the connector width direction of the receptacle **6**. The contact piece **47** is a portion that is connected to an end in the connector width center direction of the unit intermediate portion **46** and extends in the plug wire direction. The contact piece **47** is orthogonal to the connector width direction. At an end in the board separating direction of the contact piece **47**, a pair of inclined surfaces **48** is formed in such a manner that the end in the board separating direction of the contact piece **47** is tapered in the board separating direction. Due to the presence of the unit proximal end **45**, the unit intermediate portion **46**, and the contact piece **47**, the contact unit **43** forms a U-shape when viewed along the board approaching direction. As shown in FIG. **6**, the contact piece **47** of the contact unit **43** is formed so as to be away from the base plate portion **40**. As shown in FIG. **7**, the contact piece **47** is supported by one of the side plate portions **41** in a slightly floating state relative to the base plate portion **40** so that a gap "g" is formed between the contact piece **47** and the electrode pad **7** when the receptacle **6** is soldered to the electrode pad **7** on the connector mounting surface **5** of the board **4**. To put it briefly, the contact piece **47** is disposed at a location farther from the board **4** than the base plate portion **40**.

The pair of lock units **49** constitutes a lock mechanism R. The pair of lock units **49** is formed in a symmetrical shape in the connector width direction. Accordingly, only one of the pair will be described, and the description of the other one of the pair will be omitted.

The lock unit **49** includes a lock beam **50** and a claw portion **51**. The lock beam **50** is formed in a beam shape that is supported by the side plate portion **41**. The lock beam **50** is formed in a cantilever shape that is supported by the side plate portion **41**. The lock beam **50** is a flat plate-like portion that is connected to an end in the plug wire direction of the side plate portion **41** and extends in the plug wire direction. The lock beam **50** is orthogonal to the connector width direction. As shown in FIG. **7**, an end in the plug wire direction of the lock beam **50** is positioned in the vicinity of an end in the plug wire direction of the base plate portion **40**. The claw portion **51** is a portion that is connected to an end in the plug wire direction of the lock beam **50** and is formed so as to protrude in the connector width center direction. The claw portion **51** has an inclined surface **51***a* that is inclined in the board approaching direction toward the connector width center direction. In the structure described above, the claw portion **51** is elastically displaceable in the connector width anti-center direction due to the presence of the lock beam **50**.

The pair of guide inclined portions **44** is formed in a symmetrical shape in the connector width direction. Accordingly, only one of the pair will be described, and the description of the other one of the pair will be omitted. The guide inclined portion **44** is connected to an end in the board separating direction of the side plate portion **41** and to an end in the board separating direction of the lock beam **50**. The guide inclined portion **44** is formed so as to extend in the wire direction. The guide inclined portion **44** is inclined in the board approaching direction toward the connector width center direction. That is, the pair of guide inclined portions **44** is inclined so as to be spaced apart from each other toward the board separating direction.

(Mating Operation)

Next, the mating operation for mating the plug **3** with the receptacle **6** will be described. For reference, FIG. **8** shows a state in which the plug **3** is mated with the receptacle **6**.

First, as shown in FIG. **2**, the wire **2** is attached to the plug **3**, and the plug **3** is moved toward the receptacle **6**. The direction of movement of the plug **3** toward the receptacle **6** is indicated by the above-mentioned mating direction P. At this time, the plug **3** is moved toward the receptacle **6** in such a manner that the erect rod **42** shown in FIG. **5** is inserted into the erect rod guide hole portion **22** shown in FIG. **4**.

Then, due to the presence of the pair of guide inclined portions **44** of the receptacle **6** shown in FIG. **5**, the position of the plug **3** in the connector width direction relative to the receptacle **6** is automatically adjusted. In the state where the position of the plug **3** in the connector width direction relative to the receptacle **6** is adjusted in this manner, the end in the board separating direction of the erect rod **42** is inserted into the erect rod guide hole portion **22** by moving the plug **3** in the wire direction relative to the receptacle **6** in a reciprocating manner, or by visual checking, thereby determining the position of the plug **3** in the wire direction and the connector width direction relative to the receptacle **6**. Substantially at the same time, the pair of contact piece guide portions **25** shown in FIG. **4** contact the pair of inclined surfaces **48** of the contact piece **47** shown in FIG. **5**, and the base plate portion **17** of the wire connecting portion **11** shown in FIG. **4** contacts the inclined surfaces **51***a* of the pair of claw portions **51** shown in FIG. **5**.

In this state, when the plug **3** is pushed in the board approaching direction by using the pair of pushing plate portions **24** of the plug body **12** shown in FIG. **3**, the plug **3** and the receptacle **6** behave in the following manner.

(1) The plug body **12** of the plug **3** shown in FIG. **4** is fitted between the pair of side plate portions **41** of the receptacle **6** shown in FIG. **5**. As a result, the pair of side plate portions **41** of the receptacle **6** sandwich the plug body **12** of the plug **3** in the connector width direction.

(2) The erect rod **42** shown in FIG. **5** is deeply inserted into the erect rod guide hole portion **22** shown in FIG. **4**.

(3) The contact piece **47** shown in FIG. **5** is inserted between the distal ends **23***c* of the pair of contact beams **23**, while the pair of contact beams **23** shown in FIG. **4** is elastically deformed. As a result, the distal ends **23***c* of the pair of contact beams **23** of the plug **3** are allowed to reliably contact the contact piece **47** of the receptacle **6** by the spring restoring force of the contact beams **23**.

(4) The wire connecting portion **11** shown in FIG. **4** pushes out the pair of lock beams **50** through the pair of inclined surfaces **51***a* shown in FIG. **5**, and the pair of claw portions **51** is elastically displaced in the connector width anti-center direction. Then, when the wire connecting portion **11** passes over the pair of claw portions **51**, the pair of claw portions **51** returns in the connector width center direction and the wire connecting portion **11** is caught on the pair of claw portions **51**. As a result, the plug **3** is prevented from being disengaged from the receptacle **6** when the wire **2** is pulled in the board separating direction.

The first preferred embodiment of the present invention described above has the following features.

(1) The wire-to-board connector **1** includes the plug **3** (first terminal) which is attached to the wire **2**, and the receptacle **6** (second terminal) which is mounted on the connector mounting surface **5** of the board **4**. The plug **3** and the receptacle **6** are each formed of metal. The plug **3** is mated with the receptacle **6** to thereby connect the wire **2** to the board **4**. The wire-to-board connector **1** has the following structure. When the plug **3** is mated with the receptacle **6**, the wire direction corresponding to the longitudinal direction of the wire **2** in the vicinity of the plug **3** is parallel to the connector mounting surface **5** of the board **4**. The mating direction P in which the plug **3** is mated with the receptacle **6** is a direction approaching the connector mounting surface **5** of the board **4**. According to the structure described above, the workability that allows the plug **3** to be mated with the receptacle **6** is favorable.

(2) The mating direction P is a direction orthogonal to the connector mounting surface **5** of the board **4**. According to the structure described above, the workability that allows the plug **3** to be mated with the receptacle **6** is more favorable.

(10) The receptacle **6** has the lock mechanism R that prevents disengagement of the plug **3** from the receptacle **6**. In this embodiment, the lock mechanism R is implemented by the pair of lock units **49**. The lock mechanism R may be formed in the plug **3** instead of the receptacle **6**, or may be formed in both of the plug **3** and the receptacle **6**.

(3) The receptacle **6** includes the base plate portion **40** which is opposed to the connector mounting surface **5** of the board **4**, and the pair of side plate portions **41** which sandwich the plug **3** mated with the receptacle **6** in the connector width direction (wire orthogonal direction) orthogonal to the wire direction. According to the structure described above, the allowance in the connector width direction of the plug **3** with respect to the receptacle **6** is small, so that the plug **3** is reliably held by the receptacle **6**.

(4) The receptacle **6** includes the erect rod **42** (guide rod portion) extending so as to be away from the connector mounting surface **5** of the board **4**. The plug **3** has the erect rod guide hole portion **22** (guide hole portion) into which the erect rod **42** is inserted. According to the structure described above, when the plug **3** is mated with the receptacle **6**, the effect of positioning the plug **3** relative to the receptacle **6** is exerted. Furthermore, according to the structure described above, the plug **3** is prevented from being disengaged from the receptacle **6** in the wire direction.

(5) The plug **3** includes the pair of contact beams **23** having a beam shape. The receptacle **6** includes the contact piece **47** that is inserted between the pair of contact beams **23**. According to the structure described above, a reliable contact between the plug **3** and the receptacle **6** is achieved.

(6) The pair of contact beams **23** is formed in a cantilever shape.

(7) The contact piece **47** is formed so as to be away from the base plate portion **40**. According to the structure described above, when the base plate portion **40** of the receptacle **6** is soldered to the connector mounting surface **5** of the board **4**, the contact piece **47** is prevented from being contaminated by solder.

(8) The contact piece **47** is supported by one of the pair of side plate portions **41**.

(9) The plug **3** includes the flat plate-like pushing plate portion **24** that is disposed opposite to the board **4** with the pair of contact beams **23** interposed therebetween and is orthogonal to the mating direction. According to the structure described above, when the plug **3** is mated with the receptacle **6**, the plug **3** is pushed toward the receptacle **6** by using the pushing plate portion **24**, thereby improving the workability.

(11) The receptacle **6** includes: the pair of lock beams **50** which are respectively supported by the pair of side plate portions **41** and extend in a beam shape in the wire direction; and the pair of claw portions **51** which are respectively supported by the pair of lock beams **50** and protrude so as to approach each other. The plug **3** is formed to be caught on the pair of claw portions **51** of the receptacle **6** when the plug **3** is mated with the receptacle **6**. The pair of lock beams **50** and the pair of claw portions **51** constitute the lock mechanism R. According to the structure described above, since the pair of claw portions **51** is supported in an elastically displaceable manner, the plug **3** is locked by the receptacle **6** merely by pushing the plug **3** into the receptacle **6**.

(12) The plug **3** includes the wire connecting portion **11** (central conductor holding portion) that holds the strand wire **8** (central conductor) of the wire **2**. The wire connecting portion **11** of the plug **3** is formed to be caught on the pair of claw portions **51** of the receptacle **6** when the plug **3** is mated with the receptacle **6**.

(13) The receptacle **6** includes the pair of guide inclined portions **44** (inclined portions) that are respectively connected to the pair of side plate portions **41** and are inclined so as to be gradually spaced apart from each other in a direction away from the connector mounting surface **5** of the board **4**. According to the structure described above, when the plug **3** is mated with the receptacle **6**, the effect of guiding and positioning the plug **3** between the pair of side plate portions **41** of the receptacle **6** is obtained.

Second Embodiment

Next, a second embodiment of the present invention will be described with reference to FIGS. **9** and **10**. Here, differences between this embodiment and the first embodiment will be mainly described, while a repeat of previous descriptions is omitted as appropriate. Components corresponding to the components of the first embodiment described above are denoted by the same reference numerals as a rule.

The plug **3** of this embodiment is identical with the plug **3** of the first embodiment, so the description thereof is omitted.

(Receptacle **6**)

As shown in FIG. **9**, the receptacle **6** is formed to be elongated in the wire direction. The receptacle **6** includes a base plate portion **140**, a pair of side plate portions **141**, an erect rod **142** (guide rod portion), a contact unit **143**, a pair of guide inclined portions **144** (inclined portions), and a pair of lock units **149**.

The base plate portion **140** is a portion that is soldered to the electrode pad **7** (see FIGS. **1** and **2**) of the connector mounting surface **5** of the board **4**. The base plate portion **140** is formed in a flat plate shape that is orthogonal to the connector height direction. The base plate portion **140** has a rectangular shape and is formed so as to be tapered along the wire direction.

The pair of side plate portions **141** is formed in a symmetrical shape in the connector width direction. Accordingly, only one of the pair will be described, and the description of the other one of the pair will be omitted. The side plate portion **141** is connected to an end in the connector width direction of the base plate portion **140**, and is formed to protrude in the board separating direction. The side plate portion **141** is connected to an end in the plug wire direction of the base plate portion **140** and to an end in the wire plug direction thereof. The side plate portion **141** and the base plate portion **140** are not connected to each other between the end in the plug wire

direction of the base plate portion **140** and the end in the wire plug direction thereof, and a slit "s" is formed between the side plate portion **141** and the base plate portion **140**. This slit "s" facilitates the elastic deformation of the side plate portion **141** so that it is inclined in the connector width anti-center direction. The side plate portion **141** is positioned so as to be erected at a right angle with respect to the base plate portion **140**. That is, the side plate portion **141** is in a position orthogonal to the connector width direction. The length in the wire direction of the side plate portion **141** is equal to the length in the wire direction of the base plate portion **140**.

The erect rod **142** is a portion that is disposed at the center in the connector width direction of the receptacle **6** and is formed in a rod shape extending in the board separating direction from the base plate portion **140**. The erect rod **142** is formed by lancing the end in the wire plug direction of the base plate portion **140**. The erect rod **142** is positioned so as to be erected at a right angle with respect to the base plate portion **140**.

The contact unit **143** is a portion that functions as a contact with the plug **3**. The contact unit **143** is disposed at a location closer to a side in the wire plug direction than the base plate portion **140**, the pair of side plate portions **141**, and the erect rod **142**. The contact unit **143** is supported by one of the side plate portions **141**. The contact unit **143** includes a unit proximal end **145**, a unit intermediate portion **146**, and a contact piece **147**. The unit proximal end **145** is a portion that is connected to an end in the wire plug direction of one of the side plate portions **141** and extends in the wire plug direction. The unit proximal end **145** is orthogonal to the connector width direction. The unit intermediate portion **146** is a portion that is connected to an end in the wire plug direction of the unit proximal end **145** and extends in the connector width center direction. The unit intermediate portion **146** is orthogonal to the wire direction. The unit intermediate portion **146** extends to the center in the connector width direction of the receptacle **6**. The contact piece **147** is a portion that is connected to an end in the connector width center direction of the unit intermediate portion **146** and extends in the plug wire direction. The contact piece **147** is orthogonal to the connector width direction. At an end in the board separating direction of the contact piece **147**, a pair of inclined surfaces **148** is formed in such a manner that the end in the board separating direction of the contact piece **147** is tapered in the board separating direction. Due to the presence of the unit proximal end **145**, the unit intermediate portion **146**, and the contact piece **147**, the contact unit **143** forms a U-shape when viewed along the board approaching direction. The contact piece **147** of the contact unit **143** is formed so as to be away from the base plate portion **140** (also see FIG. **6**). The contact piece **147** is supported by one of the side plate portions **141** in a slightly floating state relative to the base plate portion **140** so that the gap "g" (also see FIG. **7**) is formed between the contact piece **147** and the electrode pad **7** when the receptacle **6** is soldered to the electrode pad **7** on the connector mounting surface **5** of the board **4**. To put it briefly, the contact piece **147** is disposed at a location farther from the board **4** than the base plate portion **140**.

The pair of lock units **149** constitutes the lock mechanism R. The pair of lock units **149** is formed in a symmetrical shape in the connector width direction. Accordingly, only one of the pair will be described, and the description of the other one of the pair will be omitted.

The lock unit **149** includes a standing portion **153**, a curved portion **154**, and an inclined portion **155**. The standing portion **153** is a flat plate-like portion that is connected to an end in the board separating direction of the side plate portion **141** and extends in the board separating direction. The standing portion **153** is orthogonal to the connector width direction. The standing portion **153** is disposed at a location slightly closer to the side in the plug wire direction relative to the center in the wire direction of the side plate portion **141**. The curved portion **154** is a portion that is connected to an end in the board separating direction of the standing portion **153** and is curved in the connector width center direction. The inclined portion **155** is a portion that is connected to an end in the connector width center direction of the curved portion **154** and is inclined in the board approaching direction toward the connector width center direction. The inclined portion **155** has an inclined surface **155***a* that is inclined in the board approaching direction toward the connector width center direction. In the structure described above, due to the presence of the curved portion **154**, the inclined portion **155** (inclined surface **155***a*) is elastically displaceable in the connector width anti-center direction. When the plug **3** is mated with the receptacle **6**, the lock unit **149** is disposed so as to contact the wire connecting portion **11** (also see FIG. **3**) of the plug **3**.

The pair of guide inclined portions **144** is formed in a symmetrical shape in the connector width direction. Accordingly, only one of the pair will be described, and the description of the other one of the pair will be omitted. The guide inclined portion **144** is connected to an end in the board separating direction of the side plate portion **141** and is formed so as to extend in the wire direction. The guide inclined portion **144** is disposed at a location closer to a side in the wire plug direction than the lock unit **149**. The guide inclined portion **144** is inclined in the board approaching direction toward the connector width center direction. That is, the pair of guide inclined portions **144** is inclined so as to be spaced apart from each other toward the board separating direction.

(Mating Operation)

Next, the mating operation for mating the plug **3** with the receptacle **6** will be described. For reference, FIG. **10** shows a state in which the plug **3** is mated with the receptacle **6**.

First, the wire **2** is attached to the plug **3** (also see FIG. **2**), and the plug **3** is moved toward the receptacle **6**. The direction of movement of the plug **3** toward the receptacle **6** is indicated by the above-mentioned mating direction P. At this time, the plug **3** is moved toward the receptacle **6** in such a manner that the erect rod **142** shown in FIG. **9** is inserted into the erect rod guide hole portion **22** shown in FIG. **4**.

Then, due to the presence of the pair of guide inclined portions **144** of the receptacle **6**, the position of the plug **3** in the connector width direction relative to the receptacle **6** is automatically adjusted. In the state where the position of the plug **3** in the connector width direction relative to the receptacle **6** is adjusted in this manner, the end in the board separating direction of the erect rod **142** is inserted into the erect rod guide hole portion **22** by moving the plug **3** in the wire direction relative to the receptacle **6** in a reciprocating manner, thereby determining the position of the plug **3** in the wire direction and the connector width direction relative to the receptacle **6**. Substantially at the same time, the pair of contact piece guide portions **25** shown in FIG. **4** contact the pair of inclined surfaces **148** of the contact piece **147** shown in FIG. **9**, and the base plate portion **17** of the wire connecting portion **11** shown in FIG. **4** contacts the inclined surfaces **155***a* shown in FIG. **9**.

In this state, when the plug **3** is pushed in the board approaching direction by using the pair of pushing plate portions **24** of the plug body **12** shown in FIG. **3**, the plug **3** and the receptacle **6** behave in the following manner.

(1) The plug body **12** of the plug **3** shown in FIG. **4** is fitted between the pair of side plate portions **141** of the receptacle **6** shown in FIG. **9**. As a result, the pair of side plate portions **141** of the receptacle **6** sandwich the plug body **12** of the plug **3** in the connector width direction.

(2) The erect rod **142** shown in FIG. **9** is deeply inserted into the erect rod guide hole portion **22** shown in FIG. **4**.

(3) The contact piece **147** shown in FIG. **9** is inserted between the distal ends **23***c* of the pair of contact beams **23**, while the pair of contact beams **23** shown in FIG. **4** is elastically deformed. As a result, the distal ends **23***c* of the pair of contact beams **23** of the plug **3** are allowed to reliably contact the contact piece **147** of the receptacle **6** by the spring restoring force of the contact beams **23**.

(4) The wire connecting portion **11** shown in FIG. **4** pushes out the pair of inclined portions **155** through the pair of inclined surfaces **155***a* shown in FIG. **9**, and the pair of inclined portions **155** is elastically displaced in the connector width anti-center direction. Then, when the wire connecting portion **11** passes over the pair of inclined surfaces **155***a*, the pair of inclined portions **155** returns in the connector width center direction and the wire connecting portion **11** is caught on the pair of inclined portions **155**. As a result, the plug **3** is prevented from being disengaged from the receptacle **6** when the wire **2** is pulled in the board separating direction. The presence of the slit "s" shown in FIG. **9** facilitates the elastic deformation so that the side plate portions **141** are inclined in the connector width anti-center direction, thereby further facilitating the elastic displacement of the pair of inclined portions **155** in the connector width anti-center direction.

Third Embodiment

Next, a third embodiment of the present invention will be described with reference to FIGS. **11** to **15**. Here, differences between this embodiment and the first embodiment will be mainly described, while a repeat of previous descriptions is omitted as appropriate. Components corresponding to the components of the first embodiment described above are denoted by the same reference numerals as a rule.

(Plug **3**)

FIGS. **11** and **12** show the plug **3** in a state where the wire **2** is attached to the plug **3**. As shown in FIGS. **11** and **12**, the plug **3** is formed to be elongated along the wire direction. The plug **3** includes a wire holding portion **210**, a wire connecting portion **211** (central conductor holding portion), and a plug body **212**, which are formed in the stated order in the wire plug direction. The plug **3** is integrally formed with the wire holding portion **210**, the wire connecting portion **211**, and the plug body **212**.

The wire holding portion **210** is a portion that crimps and holds the insulation **9** of the wire **2**. The wire holding portion **210** includes a base plate portion **215** and a pair of holding portions **216**. The base plate portion **215** is a flat plate-like portion orthogonal to the connector height direction. The pair of holding portions **216** are respectively connected to both ends in the connector width direction of the base plate portion **215**, and protrude in the board approaching direction. An end in the board approaching direction of each holding portion **216** is bent by a dedicated crimp tool, and is thus curved in the connector width center direction.

The wire connecting portion **211** is a portion that crimps and holds the strand wire **8** of the wire **2**. The wire connecting portion **211** is electrically connected to the strand wire **8** of the wire **2**. The wire connecting portion **211** includes a base plate portion **217** and a pair of holding portions **218**. The base plate portion **217** is a flat plate-like portion orthogonal to the connector height direction. The base plate portion **217** is connected to an end in the wire plug direction of the base plate portion **215** of the wire holding portion **210**. The pair of holding portions **218** are respectively connected to both ends in the connector width direction of the base plate portion **217**, and protrude in the board approaching direction. Each holding portion **218** is bent by a dedicated crimp tool, and is thus curved in the connector width center direction. Each holding portion **218** is curved so as to swell out in the board separating direction.

The plug body **212** includes a base plate portion **219**, a pushing plate portion **220**, a pair of contact beams **223**, a pair of erect rod guide portions **224**, a pair of lock units **225**, and a pair of contact piece guide portions **226**.

The base plate portion **219** is a flat plate-like portion orthogonal to the connector height direction. The base plate portion **219** is connected to an end in the wire plug direction of the base plate portion **217** of the wire connecting portion **211**.

The pushing plate portion **220** is a plate-like portion orthogonal to the connector height direction. The pushing plate portion **220** is connected to an end in the wire plug direction of the base plate portion **219**.

The pair of contact beams **223**, the pair of erect rod guide portions **224**, the pair of lock units **225**, and the pair of contact piece guide portions **226** are each formed in a symmetrical shape in the connector width direction. Accordingly, only one of each pair will be described, and the description of the other one of each pair will be omitted.

The contact beam **223** is a portion that functions as a contact with the receptacle **6**. The contact beam **223** is formed in a beam shape. The contact beam **223** is formed in a cantilever shape. The contact beam **223** is a cantilever supported by the base plate portion **219**. The contact beam **223** is connected to an end in the connector width direction of the base plate portion **219**, and is positioned so as to be erected at a right angle with respect to the base plate portion **219**. The contact beam **223** is formed so as to extend in the wire plug direction when viewed from the base plate portion **219**. The contact beam **223** includes a proximal end **223***a*, an inclined portion **223***b*, and a distal end **223***c*, which are formed in the stated order in the wire plug direction. The proximal end **223***a* is a flat plate-like portion that is connected to an end in the connector width direction of the base plate portion **219** and is orthogonal to the connector width direction. The inclined portion **223***b* is a flat plate-like portion that is connected to an end in the wire plug direction of the proximal end **223***a* and is inclined in the connector width center direction toward the wire plug direction. The distal end **223***c* is a flat plate-like portion that is connected to an end in the wire plug direction of the inclined portion **223***b* and is orthogonal to the connector width direction. Due to the presence of the inclined portion **223***b*, the distance between the distal end **223***c* of one of the contact beams **223** and the distal end **223** of the other contact beam **223** is smaller than the distance between the proximal end **223***a* of one of the contact beams **223** and the proximal end **223***a* of the other contact beam **223**. The distance between the distal end **223***c* of one of the contact beams **223** and the distal end **223***c* of the other contact beam **223** is set to be smaller than the thickness of the receptacle **6**. Due to the presence of the proximal end **223***a* and the inclined portion **223***b*, the distal end **223***c* is elastically displaceable in the connector width anti-center direction. The contact beam **223** is disposed between the pushing plate portion **220** and the board **4** in the connector height direction. That is, it can be

said that the pushing plate portion **220** is disposed opposite to the board **4** with the contact beam **223** interposed therebetween.

The erect rod guide portion **224** is a flat plate-like portion that is connected to an end in the board approaching direction of the proximal end **223***a* of the contact beam **223** and extends in the wire plug direction. The erect rod guide portion **224** is orthogonal to the connector height direction. At an end in the connector width center direction of the erect rod guide portion **224**, a notch **224***a* which is opened in the connector width center direction is formed. The distance between one of the erect rod guide portions **224** and the other erect rod guide portion **224** is set to be as small as possible. The notch **224***a* of one of the erect rod guide portion **224** and the notch **224***a* of the other erect rod guide portion **224** constitute an erect rod guide hole portion **222** (guide hole portion).

The lock unit **225** includes a lock beam **227** and a claw portion **228**. The lock beam **227** is a portion that is connected to the proximal end **223***a* of the contact beam **223** and extends in a rod shape in the board approaching direction. The lock beam **227** is formed in a cantilever shape that is supported by the proximal end **223***a*. The claw portion **228** is a portion that is connected to an end in the board approaching direction of the lock beam **227** and protrudes in the plug wire direction.

The contact piece guide portion **226** is a flat plate-like portion that is connected to an end in the board approaching direction of the distal end **223***c* of the contact beam **223** and is inclined in the connector width anti-center direction toward the board approaching direction.

(Receptacle **6**)

As shown in FIGS. **13** and **14**, the receptacle **6** is formed to be elongated in the wire direction. The receptacle **6** includes a base plate portion **240**, a pair of side plate portions **241**, an erect rod **242** (guide rod portion), and a contact unit **243**.

The base plate portion **240** is a portion that is soldered to the electrode pad **7** (see FIGS. **1** and **2**) on the connector mounting surface **5** of the board **4**. The base plate portion **240** is formed to be elongated in the wire direction. The base plate portion **240** includes a first soldered portion **240***a*, a lock plate portion **240***b*, and a second soldered portion **240***c*, which are formed in the stated order in the wire plug direction. The first soldered portion **240***a* is formed in a flat plate shape orthogonal to the connector height direction. The lock plate portion **240***b* is connected to an end in the wire plug direction of the first soldered portion **240***a*, is slightly raised in the board separating direction relative to the first soldered portion **240***a*, and is formed in a flat plate shape orthogonal to the connector height direction. A pair of lock hole portions **240***d* are respectively formed at both ends in the connector width direction of the lock plate portion **240***b*. The second soldered portion **240***c* is connected to an end in the wire plug direction of the lock plate portion **240***b*, is slightly recessed in the board approaching direction relative to the lock plate portion **240***b*, and is formed in a flat plate shape orthogonal to the connector height direction. The first soldered portion **240***a* and the second soldered portion **240***c* are soldered to the electrode pad **7** on the connector mounting surface **5** of the board **4**.

The pair of side plate portions **241** is formed in a symmetrical shape in the connector width direction. Accordingly, only one of the pair will be described, and the description of the other one of the pair will be omitted. The side plate portion **241** is connected to an end in the connector width direction of the second soldered portion **240***c* of the base plate portion **240**, and is formed to protrude in the board separating direction. The side plate portion **241** is positioned so as to be erected at a right angle with respect to the base plate portion **240**. That is, the side plate portion **241** is in a position orthogonal to the connector width direction.

The erect rod **242** is a portion that is disposed at the center in the connector width direction of the receptacle **6** and is formed in a rod shape extending in the board separating direction from the base plate portion **240**. The erect rod **242** is formed by lancing an end in the wire plug direction of the second soldered portion **240***c* of the base plate portion **240**. The erect rod **242** is positioned so as to be erected at a right angle with respect to the second soldered portion **240***c* of the base plate portion **240**.

The contact unit **243** is a portion that functions as a contact with the plug **3**. The contact unit **243** is disposed at a location closer to a side in the wire plug direction than the base plate portion **240**, the pair of side plate portions **241**, and the erect rod **242**. The contact unit **243** is supported by one of the side plate portions **241**. The contact unit **243** includes a unit proximal end **245**, a unit intermediate portion **246**, and a contact piece **247**. The unit proximal end **245** is a portion that is connected to an end in the wire plug direction of one of the side plate portions **241**. The unit proximal end **245** is orthogonal to the connector width direction. The unit intermediate portion **246** is a portion that is connected to an end in the wire plug direction of the unit proximal end **245** and extends in the connector width center direction. The unit intermediate portion **246** is orthogonal to the wire direction. The unit intermediate portion **246** extends to the center in the connector width direction of the receptacle **6**. The contact piece **247** is a portion that is connected to an end in the connector width center direction of the unit intermediate portion **246** and extends in the plug wire direction. The contact piece **247** is orthogonal to the connector width direction. At an end in the board separating direction of the contact piece **247**, a pair of inclined surfaces **248** is formed in such a manner that the end in the board separating direction of the contact piece **247** is tapered in the board separating direction. Due to the presence of the unit proximal end **245**, the unit intermediate portion **246**, and the contact piece **247**, the contact unit **243** forms a U-shape when viewed along the board approaching direction. As shown in FIG. **14**, the contact piece **247** of the contact unit **243** is formed so as to be away from the base plate portion **240**. The contact piece **247** is supported by one of the side plate portions **241** in a slightly floating state relative to the base plate portion **240** so that the gap "g" (also see FIG. **7**) is formed between the contact piece **247** and the electrode pad **7** when the receptacle **6** is soldered to the electrode pad **7** on the connector mounting surface **5** of the board **4**. To put it briefly, the contact piece **247** is disposed at a location farther from the board **4** than the base plate portion **240**.

(Mating Operation)

Next, the mating operation for mating the plug **3** with the receptacle **6** will be described. For reference, FIG. **15** shows a state in which the plug **3** is mated with the receptacle **6**.

First, as shown in FIG. **2**, the wire **2** is attached to the plug **3**, and the plug **3** is moved toward the receptacle **6**. The direction of movement of the plug **3** toward the receptacle **6** is indicated by the above-mentioned mating direction P. At this time, the plug **3** is moved toward the receptacle **6** in such a manner that the erect rod **242** shown in FIG. **13** is inserted into the erect rod guide hole portion **222** shown in FIG. **12**.

When the erect rod **242** shown in FIG. **13** is inserted into the erect rod guide hole portion **222** shown in FIG. **12**, the position of the plug **3** in the wire direction and the connector width direction relative to the receptacle **6** is determined. Substantially at the same time, the pair of contact piece guide portions **226** shown in FIG. **12** contacts the pair of inclined surfaces **248** of the contact piece **247** shown in FIG. **13**, and

the claw portions **228** of the pair of lock units **225** shown in FIG. **11** contact the periphery of the lock hole portions **240***d* of the pair of lock plate portions **240***b* shown in FIG. **13**.

In this state, when the plug **3** is pushed in the board approaching direction by using the pair of pushing plate portions **220** of the plug body **12** shown in FIG. **11**, the plug **3** and the receptacle **6** behave in the following manner.

(1) The plug body **212** of the plug **3** shown in FIG. **11** is fitted between the pair of side plate portions **241** of the receptacle **6** shown in FIG. **13**. As a result, the pair of side plate portions **241** of the receptacle **6** sandwich the plug body **212** of the plug **3** in the connector width direction.

(2) The erect rod **242** shown in FIG. **13** is deeply inserted into the erect rod guide hole portion **222** shown in FIG. **12**.

(3) The contact piece **247** shown in FIG. **13** is inserted between the distal ends **223***c* of the pair of contact beams **223**, while the pair of contact beams **223** shown in FIG. **12** is elastically deformed. As a result, the distal ends **223***c* of the pair of contact beams **223** of the plug **3** are allowed to reliably contact the contact piece **147** of the receptacle **6** by the spring restoring force of the contact beams **223**.

(4) The claw portion **228** of each lock unit **225** shown in FIG. **12** is inserted into the corresponding lock hole portion **240***d* of the lock plate portion **240***b* of the base plate portion **240** shown in FIG. **13**, while the lock beam **227** of each lock unit **225** is elastically deformed. Then, each claw portion **228** is caught on the periphery of the corresponding lock hole portion **240***d*. As a result, the plug **3** is prevented from being disengaged from the receptacle **6** when the wire **2** is pulled in the board separating direction. In this embodiment, the lock mechanism R includes the claw portion **228** and the lock hole portion **240***d*.

Fourth Embodiment

Next, a fourth embodiment of the present invention will be described with reference to FIGS. **16** to **26**. Here, differences between this embodiment and the first embodiment will be mainly described, while a repeat of previous descriptions is omitted as appropriate.

As shown in FIGS. **16** and **17**, the wire-to-board connector **1** includes the plug **3** which is attached to the wire **2**, and the receptacle **6** which is mounted on the connector mounting surface **5** of the board **4**. The plug **3** and the receptacle **6** are each formed of metal. The plug **3** and the receptacle **6** are formed by sheet metal bending. Each of the plug **3** and the receptacle **6** is a so-called insulator-less terminal (housing-less terminal) with no insulator. The plug **3** is mated with the receptacle **6**, thereby allowing the wire **2** to be electrically connected to the board **4**.

As shown in FIG. **17**, the mating direction P in which the plug **3** is mated with the receptacle **6** is a direction approaching the connector mounting surface **5** of the board **4**. Accordingly, the workability that allows the plug **3** to be mated with the receptacle **6** is favorable. In this embodiment, the mating direction P coincides with the board approaching direction. Accordingly, the workability that allows the plug **3** to be mated with the receptacle **6** is more favorable.

(Plug **3**)

FIGS. **18** and **19** show the plug **3** in a state where the wire **2** is attached to the plug **3**. As shown in FIGS. **18** and **19**, the plug **3** is formed to be elongated along the wire direction. The plug **3** includes a wire holding portion **310**, a wire connecting portion **311** (central conductor holding portion), and a plug body **312**, which are formed in the stated order in the wire plug direction. The plug **3** is integrally formed with the wire holding portion **310**, the wire connecting portion **311**, and the plug body **312**.

The wire holding portion **310** is a portion that crimps and holds the insulation **9** of the wire **2**. The wire holding portion **310** includes a base plate portion **315** and a pair of holding portions **316**. The base plate portion **315** is a flat plate-like portion orthogonal to the connector height direction. The pair of holding portions **316** are respectively connected to both ends in the connector width direction of the base plate portion **315**, and protrude in the board approaching direction. An end in the board approaching direction of each holding portion **316** is bent by a dedicated crimp tool, and is thus curved in the connector width center direction.

The wire connecting portion **311** is a portion that crimps and holds the strand wire **8** of the wire **2**. The wire connecting portion **311** is electrically connected to the strand wire **8** of the wire **2**. The wire connecting portion **311** includes a base plate portion **317** and a pair of holding portions **318**. The base plate portion **317** is a flat plate-like portion orthogonal to the connector height direction. The base plate portion **317** is connected to an end in the wire plug direction of the base plate portion **315** of the wire holding portion **310**. The pair of holding portions **318** are respectively connected to both ends in the connector width direction of the base plate portion **317** and protrude in the board approaching direction. Each holding portion **318** is bent by a dedicated crimp tool, and is thus curved in a C-shape toward the connector width center direction. Each holding portion **318** is curved so as to swell out in the board approaching direction.

The plug body **312** includes a base plate portion **319**, a pair of contact beams **320**, and a pair of protrusions **327**.

The base plate portion **319** is a flat plate-like portion that is connected to an end in the wire plug direction of the base plate portion **317** of the wire connecting portion **311** and extends in the wire plug direction. The base plate portion **319** is orthogonal to the connector height direction. At the center in the connector width direction of the base plate portion **319**, a slit **321** which extends in the wire direction is formed. The base plate portion **319** includes a distal end inner wall surface **321***a* which defines a space in the wire plug direction of the slit **321**, and a proximal end inner wall surface **321***b* which defines a space in the plug wire direction of the slit **321**.

The pair of contact beams **320** and the pair of protrusions **327** are each formed in a symmetrical shape in the connector width direction. Accordingly, only one of each pair will be described, and the description of the other one of each pair will be omitted.

The contact beam **320** is a portion that functions as a contact with the receptacle **6**. The contact beam **320** is formed in a beam shape. The contact beam **320** is formed in a cantilever shape. The contact beam **320** is a cantilever supported by the base plate portion **319**. The contact beam **320** is connected to an end in the connector width direction of the base plate portion **319** and is positioned so as to be erected at a right angle with respect to the base plate portion **319**. The contact beam **320** is a cantilever which is formed in a U-shape that is opened in the plug wire direction when viewed along the board separating direction. The contact beam **320** includes a side plate portion **322**, a curved portion **323**, an inclined portion **324**, and a contact portion **325**.

The side plate portion **322** is a portion that is connected to an end in the connector width direction of the base plate portion **319** and extends in the wire plug direction. The side plate portion **322** is orthogonal to the connector width direction. As shown in FIG. **20**, a lock hole portion **326** having a rectangular shape is formed on a side in the plug wire direc-

tion of the side plate portion **322**. The side plate portion **322** includes a board-side inner wall surface **326***a* which defines a space in the board approaching direction of the lock hole portion **326**, a plug-side inner wall surface **326***b* which defines a space in the wire plug direction of the lock hole portion **326**, and a wire-side inner wall surface **326***c* which defines a space in the plug wire direction of the lock hole portion **326**. The board-side inner wall surface **326***a* is formed so as to be inclined in the board approaching direction toward the wire plug direction. The plug-side inner wall surface **326***b* and the wire-side inner wall surface **326***c* are orthogonal to the wire direction.

The curved portion **323** is a portion that is connected to an end in the wire plug direction of the side plate portion **322** and is curved in a C-shape toward the connector width center direction.

The inclined portion **324** is a portion that is connected to an end on a side opposite to the side plate portion **322** of the curved portion **323** and extends in the plug wire direction. The inclined portion **324** is inclined in the connector width center direction toward the plug wire direction when viewed along the board separating direction.

The contact portion **325** is a portion that is connected to an end in the plug wire direction of the inclined portion **324** and extends in the plug wire direction. The distance between the contact portion **325** of one of the contact beams **320** and the contact portion **325** of the other contact beam **320** is set to be smaller than the thickness of the receptacle **6**. Due to the presence of the inclined portion **324** and the curved portion **323**, the contact portion **325** is elastically deformable in the connector width anti-center direction.

The protrusion **327** is a portion that protrudes in the board approaching direction in a central portion in the wire direction of the side plate portion **322**. As shown in FIG. **20**, the protrusion **327** includes a plug-side end face **327***a* which is an end face in the wire plug direction of the protrusion **327**, and a wire-side end face **327***b* which is an end face in the plug wire direction of the protrusion **327**.

(Receptacle **6**)

As shown in FIGS. **21** and **22**, the receptacle **6** is formed to be elongated in the wire direction. The receptacle **6** includes a base plate portion **340**, a pair of lock beams **341**, and a contact unit **342**.

The base plate portion **340** is a portion that is soldered to the electrode pad **7** (see FIGS. **16** and **17**) on the connector mounting surface **5** of the board **4**. The base plate portion **340** is formed to be elongated in the wire direction. The base plate portion **340** is orthogonal to the connector height direction. Notches **343** which are opened in the connector width anti-center direction are respectively formed at both ends in the connector width direction of the base plate portion **340**. The pair of notches **343** is formed on a side in the wire plug direction of the base plate portion **340**. The base plate portion **340** includes a plug-side inner wall surface **343***a* which defines a space in the wire plug direction of the notches **343**, and a wire-side inner wall surface **343***b* which defines an area on the side in the wire plug direction of the notches **343**.

The pair of lock beams **341** is formed in a symmetrical shape in the connector width direction. Accordingly, only one of the pair will be described, and the description of the other one of the pair will be omitted. The lock beam **341** is connected to an end in the plug wire direction of the base plate portion **340** and is formed so as to extend in the wire plug direction. The lock beam **341** is positioned so as to be erected at a right angle with respect to the base plate portion **340**. The lock beam **341** is orthogonal to the connector width direction. At an end in the wire plug direction of the lock beam **341**, a lock raised portion **344** that is raised in the connector width center direction is formed. The lock raised portion **344** is formed at an end in the board approaching direction of the end in the wire plug direction of the lock beam **341**. The lock raised portion **344** includes a plug-side end face **344***a* that faces in the wire plug direction, and a board-side end face **344***b* that faces in the board approaching direction. The lock raised portion **344** is elastically displaceable in the connector width anti-center direction, while the lock beam **341** is elastically deformed. Note that the length in the wire direction of the lock beam **341** is three-quarters of the length in the wire direction of the base plate portion **340**.

The contact unit **342** is a portion that functions as a contact with the plug **3**. The contact unit **342** is supported by the base plate portion **340**. The contact unit **342** includes a unit proximal end **345** and a contact piece **346**. The unit proximal end **345** is a portion that is connected to an end in the wire plug direction of the base plate portion **340** and protrudes in the board separating direction. The unit proximal end **345** is connected to a portion on one side in the connector width direction of the end in the wire plug direction of the base plate portion **340**. The unit proximal end **345** is orthogonal to the wire direction. The contact piece **346** is connected to an end in the connector width center direction of the unit proximal end **345** and is formed so as to extend in the plug wire direction. The contact piece **346** is orthogonal to the connector width direction. The contact piece **346** has a tapered portion **347** that protrudes in the board separating direction. The tapered portion **347** is formed at an end in the board separating direction of the contact piece **346**. The tapered portion **347** is formed on a side in the plug wire direction of the contact piece **346**. The tapered portion **347** has a pair of inclined surfaces **348** in such a manner that the tapered portion **347** is tapered in the board separating direction. The tapered portion **347** includes a plug-side end face **347***a* that faces in the wire plug direction, and a wire-side end face **347***b* that faces in the plug wire direction. Due to the presence of the unit proximal end **345** and the contact piece **346**, the contact unit **342** forms an L-shape when viewed along the board approaching direction. As shown in FIG. **23**, the contact piece **346** of the contact unit **342** is formed so as to be away from the base plate portion **340**. That is, a gap "h" is formed between the contact piece **346** of the contact unit **342** and the base plate portion **340**. To put it briefly, the contact piece **346** is disposed at a location farther from the board **4** than the base plate portion **340**.

(Mating Operation)

Next, the mating operation for mating the plug **3** with the receptacle **6** will be described. For reference, FIGS. **24** and **25** show a state in which the plug **3** is mated with the receptacle **6**.

First, as shown in FIG. **17**, the wire **2** is attached to the plug **3**, and the plug **3** is moved toward the receptacle **6**. The direction of movement of the plug **3** toward the receptacle **6** is indicated by the above-mentioned mating direction P. At this time, the plug **3** is moved toward the receptacle **6** in such a manner that the side plate portions **322** of the pair of contact beams **320** of the plug body **312** of the plug **3** shown in FIG. **18** are fitted between the pair of lock beams **341** of the receptacle **6** shown in FIG. **21**.

Then, the pair of contact portions **325** shown in FIG. **19** contacts the pair of inclined surfaces **348** of the tapered portion **347** shown in FIG. **21**, and the pair of side plate portions **322** shown in FIG. **19** contacts the pair of lock raised portions **344** shown in FIG. **21**.

In this state, when the plug **3** is pushed in the board approaching direction by using the base plate portion **319** of

the plug body **312** shown in FIG. **18**, the plug **3** and the receptacle **6** behave in the following manner.

(1) The contact piece **346** shown in FIG. **21** is inserted between the contact portions **325** of the pair of contact beams **320**, while the pair of contact beams **320** shown in FIG. **19** is elastically deformed. As a result, the contact portions **325** of the pair of contact beams **320** of the plug **3** are allowed to reliably contact the contact piece **326** of the receptacle **6** by the spring restoring force of the contact beams **320**.

(2) Eventually, the tapered portion **347** of the contact piece **346** shown in FIG. **21** is inserted into the slit **321** of the base plate portion **319** shown in FIG. **18**. At this time, the plug-side end face **347***a* of the tapered portion **347** shown in FIG. **21** is opposed to the distal end inner wall surface **321***a* of the base plate portion **319** shown in FIG. **18**. The wire-side end face **347***b* of the tapered portion **347** shown in FIG. **21** is opposed to the proximal end inner wall surface **321***b* of the base plate portion **319** shown in FIG. **18**. This constrains the movement of the plug **3** in the wire direction relative to the receptacle **6**.

(3) The pair of side plate portions **322** shown in FIG. **19** pushes out the pair of lock beams **341** through the pair of lock raised portions **344** shown in FIG. **21**, and the pair of lock raised portions **344** is elastically displaced in the connector width anti-center direction. Then, the pair of lock raised portions **344** returns in the connector width center direction, and the pair of lock raised portions **344** are respectively accommodated in the pair of lock hole portions **326**. The board-side end face **344***b* of the lock raised portion **344** shown in FIG. **21** is opposed to the board-side inner wall surface **326***a* of the lock hole portion **326** shown in FIG. **20**. As a result, the plug **3** is prevented from being disengaged from the receptacle **6** when the wire **2** is pulled in the board separating direction. In this embodiment, the lock mechanism R is implemented by the lock raised portions **344** of the lock beams **341** shown in FIG. **21** and the lock hole portions **326** shown in FIG. **20**. As shown in FIG. **26**, the board-side inner wall surface **326***a* of the side plate portion **322** is inclined in the board approaching direction toward the wire plug direction. On the other hand, the board-side end face **344***b* of the lock raised portion **344** is orthogonal to the connector height direction. Accordingly, the gap "i" between the board-side end face **344***b* of the lock raised portion **344** and the board-side inner wall surface **326***a* of the side plate portion **322** becomes narrow toward the plug wire direction. As a result, when the wire **2** is pulled in the board separating direction, the rotation of the plug **3** within the receptacle **6** in such a manner that the wire holding portion **310** is disposed in the board separating direction can be effectively suppressed.

(4) When the lock raised portion **344** is accommodated in the lock hole portion **326**, the plug-side end face **344***a* of the lock raised portion **344** shown in FIG. **21** is opposed to the plug-side inner wall surface **326***b* of the lock hole portion **326** shown in FIG. **20**. As a result, the movement of the plug **3** in the wire plug direction relative to the receptacle **6** is constrained.

(5) The protrusion **327** shown in FIG. **20** is accommodated in the notch **343** shown in FIG. **21**. The plug-side end face **327***a* of the protrusion **327** shown in FIG. **20** is opposed to the plug-side inner wall surface **343***a* of the notch **343** shown in FIG. **21**, and the wire-side end face **327***b* of the protrusion **327** shown in FIG. **20** is opposed to the wire-side inner wall surface **343***b* of the notch **343** shown in FIG. **21**. As a result, the movement of the plug **3** in the wire direction relative to the receptacle **6** is constrained.

Fifth Embodiment

Next, a fifth embodiment of the present invention will be described with reference to FIGS. **27** to **31**. Here, differences between this embodiment and the fourth embodiment will be mainly described, while a repeat of previous descriptions is omitted as appropriate. Components corresponding to the components of the fourth embodiment described above are denoted by the same reference numerals as a rule.

(Plug **3**)

FIG. **27** shows the plug **3** in a state where the wire **2** is attached to the plug **3**. As shown in FIG. **27**, the plug **3** is formed to be elongated along the wire direction. The plug **3** includes a wire holding portion **410**, a wire connecting portion **411** (central conductor holding portion), and a plug body **412**, which are formed in the stated order in the wire plug direction. The plug **3** is integrally formed with the wire holding portion **410**, the wire connecting portion **411**, and the plug body **412**.

The wire holding portion **410** is a portion that crimps and holds the insulation **9** of the wire **2**. The wire holding portion **410** includes a base plate portion **415** and a pair of holding portions **416**. The base plate portion **415** is a flat plate-like portion orthogonal to the connector height direction. The pair of holding portions **416** are respectively connected to both ends in the connector width direction of the base plate portion **415**, and protrude in the board approaching direction. An end in the board approaching direction of each holding portion **416** is bent by a dedicated crimp tool, and is thus curved in the connector width center direction.

The wire connecting portion **411** is a portion that crimps and holds the strand wire **8** of the wire **2**. The wire connecting portion **411** is electrically connected to the strand wire **8** of the wire **2**. The wire connecting portion **411** includes a base plate portion **417** and a pair of holding portions **418**. The base plate portion **417** is a flat plate-like portion orthogonal to the connector height direction. The base plate portion **417** is connected to an end in the wire plug direction of the base plate portion **415** of the wire holding portion **410**. The pair of holding portions **418** are respectively connected to both ends in the connector width direction of the base plate portion **417**, and protrude in the board approaching direction. Each holding portion **418** is bent by a dedicated crimp tool, and is thus curved in a C-shape toward the connector width center direction. Each holding portion **418** is curved so as to swell out in the board approaching direction.

The plug body **312** includes a base plate portion **419** and a pair of contact beams **420**.

The base plate portion **419** is a flat plate-like portion that is connected to an end in the wire plug direction of the base plate portion **417** of the wire connecting portion **411** and extends in the wire plug direction. The base plate portion **419** is orthogonal to the connector height direction. At the center in the connector width direction of the base plate portion **419**, a slit **421** which extends in the wire direction is formed. The base plate portion **419** includes a distal end inner wall surface **421***a* which defines a space in the wire plug direction of the slit **421**, and a proximal end inner wall surface **421***b* which defines a space in the plug wire direction of the slit **421**.

The pair of contact beams **420** is formed in a symmetrical shape in the connector width direction. Accordingly, only one of the pair will be described, and the description of the other one of the pair will be omitted.

The contact beam **420** is a portion that functions as a contact with the receptacle **6**. The contact beam **420** is formed in a beam shape. The contact beam **420** is formed in a cantilever shape. The contact beam **420** is a cantilever supported by the base plate portion **419**. The contact beam **420** is connected to an end in the connector width direction of the base plate portion **419**, and is positioned so as to be erected at a right angle with respect to the base plate portion **419**. The

contact beam **420** is a cantilever which is formed in a U-shape that is opened in the plug wire direction when viewed along the board separating direction. The contact beam **420** includes a side plate portion **422**, a curved portion **423**, an inclined portion **424**, and a contact portion **425**. The shape of the contact beam **420** is completely identical with the shape of the contact beam **320** of the fourth embodiment. As for the inclined portion **424** and the contact portion **425**, also refer to the inclined portion **324** and the contact portion **325** shown in FIG. **19**.

The side plate portion **422** is a portion that is connected to an end in the connector width direction of the base plate portion **419** and extends in the wire plug direction. The side plate portion **422** is orthogonal to the connector width direction. On a side in the plug wire direction of the side plate portion **422**, a lock claw portion **426** which rolls back in the connector width anti-center direction is formed. The lock claw portion **426** is formed by lancing a portion which is located on a side in the plug wire direction of the side plate portion **422**. The lock claw portion **426** is formed as a cantilever which rolls back in the connector width anti-center direction toward the board separating direction. As shown in FIG. **28**, the lock claw portion **426** includes a plug-side end face **426***a* that faces in the wire plug direction, a wire-side end face **426***b* that faces in the plug wire direction, and a distal end face **426***c* that faces in substantially the board separating direction. The side plate portion **422** includes a protrusion **427** that protrudes in the board approaching direction. The protrusion **427** includes a plug-side end face **427***a* which is an end face in the wire plug direction of the protrusion **427**.

The curved portion **423** is a portion that is connected to an end in the wire plug direction of the side plate portion **422** and is curved in a C-shape toward the connector width center direction.

The inclined portion **424** is a portion that is connected to an end on a side opposite to the side plate portion **422** of the curved portion **423** and extends in the plug wire direction. The inclined portion **424** is inclined in the connector width center direction toward the plug wire direction.

The contact portion **425** is a portion that is connected to an end in the plug wire direction of the inclined portion **424** and extends in the plug wire direction. The distance between the contact portion **425** of one of the contact beams **420** and the contact portion **425** of the other contact beam **420** is set to be smaller than the thickness of the receptacle **6**. Due to the presence of the inclined portion **424** and the curved portion **423**, the contact portion **425** is elastically deformable in the connector width anti-center direction.

(Receptacle **6**)

As shown in FIG. **29**, the receptacle **6** is formed to be elongated in the wire direction. The receptacle **6** includes a base plate portion **440**, a pair of side plate portions **441**, and a contact unit **442**.

The base plate portion **440** is a portion that is soldered to the electrode pad **7** (see FIGS. **16** and **17**) of the connector mounting surface **5** of the board **4**. The base plate portion **440** is formed to be elongated in the wire direction. The base plate portion **440** is orthogonal to the connector height direction. Notches **443** which are opened in the connector width anti-center direction are respectively formed at both ends in the connector width direction of the base plate portion **440**. The pair of notches **443** is formed at the center in the wire direction of the base plate portion **440**. The base plate portion **440** includes a plug-side inner wall surface **443***a* which defines a space in the wire plug direction of the notches **443**.

The pair of side plate portions **441** is formed in a symmetrical shape in the connector width direction. Accordingly, only one of the pair will be described, and the description of the other one of the pair will be omitted. The side plate portion **441** is connected to an end in the plug wire direction of the base plate portion **440** and to an end in the wire plug direction thereof, and is formed so as to extend in the wire direction. The side plate portion **441** is positioned so as to be erected at a right angle with respect to the base plate portion **440**. The side plate portion **441** is orthogonal to the connector width direction. The side plate portion **441** is elastically deformable so as to fall down in the connector width anti-center direction. At the center in the wire direction of the side plate portion **441**, a lock notch portion **444** which is opened in the board approaching direction is formed. The lock notch portion **444** is formed at an end in the board approaching direction of the side plate portion **441**. The lock notch portion **444** is formed in a rectangular shape when viewed along the connector width center direction. As shown in FIG. **30**, the side plate portion **441** includes a lock surface **444***a* which defines a space in the board separating direction of the lock notch portion **444**, a plug-side inner wall surface **444***b* which defines a space in the wire plug direction of the lock notch portion **444**, and a wire-side inner wall surface **444***c* which defines a space in the plug wire direction of the lock notch portion **444**. The lock surface **444***a* is orthogonal to the connector height direction. The plug-side inner wall surface **444***b* and the wire-side inner wall surface **444***c* are orthogonal to the wire direction. The length in the wire direction of the side plate portion **441** is substantially equal to the length in the wire direction of the base plate portion **440**.

The contact unit **442** is a portion that functions as a contact with the plug **3**. The contact unit **442** is supported by the base plate portion **440**. The contact unit **442** includes a unit proximal end **445** and a contact piece **446**. The unit proximal end **445** is a portion that is connected to an end in the wire plug direction of the base plate portion **440** and protrudes in the board separating direction. The unit proximal end **445** is connected to a portion on one side in the connector width direction of the end in the wire plug direction of the base plate portion **440**. The unit proximal end **445** is orthogonal to the wire direction. The contact piece **446** is connected to an end in the connector width center direction of the unit proximal end **445**, and is formed so as to extend in the plug wire direction. The contact piece **446** is orthogonal to the connector width direction. The contact piece **446** has a tapered portion **447** that protrudes in the board separating direction. The tapered portion **447** is formed at an end in the board separating direction of the contact piece **446**. The tapered portion **447** is formed on a side in the plug wire direction of the contact piece **446**. The tapered portion **447** has a pair of inclined surfaces **448** which is formed in such a manner that the tapered portion **447** is tapered in the board separating direction. The tapered portion **447** includes a plug-side end face **447***a* that faces in the wire plug direction, and a wire-side end face **447***b* that faces in the plug wire direction. Due to the presence of the unit proximal end **445** and the contact piece **446**, the contact unit **442** forms an L-shape when viewed along the board approaching direction. The contact piece **446** of the contact unit **442** is formed so as to be away from the base plate portion **440**. That is, the gap "h" (also see FIG. **23**) is formed between the contact piece **446** of the contact unit **442** and the base plate portion **440**. To put it briefly, the contact piece **446** is disposed at a location farther from the board **4** than the base plate portion **440**.

(Mating Operation)

Next, the mating operation for mating the plug **3** with the receptacle **6** will be described. For reference, FIG. **31** shows a state in which the plug **3** is mated with the receptacle **6**.

First, as shown in FIG. **17**, the wire **2** is attached to the plug **3**, and the plug **3** is moved toward the receptacle **6**. The direction of movement of the plug **3** toward the receptacle **6** is indicated by the above-mentioned mating direction P. At this time, the plug **3** is moved toward the receptacle **6** in such a manner that the side plate portions **422** of the pair of contact beams **420** of the plug body **412** of the plug **3** shown in FIG. **27** are fitted between the pair of side plate portions **441** of the receptacle **6** shown in FIG. **29**.

Then, the pair of contact portions **425** shown in FIG. **27** contacts the pair of inclined surfaces **448** of the contact piece **446** shown in FIG. **29**, and the pair of lock claw portions **426** shown in FIG. **27** contacts the pair of side plate portions **441** shown in FIG. **29**.

In this state, when the plug **3** is pushed in the board approaching direction by using the base plate portion **419** of the plug body **412** shown in FIG. **27**, the plug **3** and the receptacle **6** behave in the following manner.

(1) The contact piece **446** shown in FIG. **29** is inserted between the contact portions **425** of the pair of contact beams **420**, while the pair of contact beams **420** shown in FIG. **27** is elastically deformed. As a result, the contact portions **425** of the pair of contact beams **420** of the plug **3** are allowed to reliably contact the contact piece **446** of the receptacle **6** by the spring restoring force of the contact beams **420**.

(2) Eventually, the tapered portion **447** of the contact piece **446** shown in FIG. **29** is inserted into the slit **421** of the base plate portion **419** shown in FIG. **27**. At this time, the plug-side end face **447***a* of the tapered portion **447** shown in FIG. **29** is opposed to the distal end inner wall surface **421***a* of the base plate portion **419** shown in FIG. **27**. The wire-side end face **447***b* of the tapered portion **447** shown in FIG. **29** is opposed to the proximal end inner wall surface **421***b* of the base plate portion **419** shown in FIG. **27**. As a result, the movement of the plug **3** in the wire direction relative to the receptacle **6** is constrained.

(3) The pair of lock claw portions **426** shown in FIG. **27** pushes out the pair of side plate portions **441** shown in FIG. **29**, and the pair of side plate portions **441** is elastically displaced in the connector width anti-center direction. Then, when the pair of lock claw portions **426** enters into the lock notch portion **444**, the pair of side plate portions **441** returns in the connector width center direction by the spring restoring force and the pair of lock claw portions **426** are respectively accommodated in the pair of lock notch portions **444**. The distal end face **426***c* of the lock claw portion **426** shown in FIG. **28** is opposed to the lock surface **444***a* of the lock notch portion **444** shown in FIG. **30**. As a result, the plug **3** is prevented from being disengaged from the receptacle **6** when the wire **2** is pulled in the board separating direction. In this embodiment, the lock mechanism R is implemented by the lock claw portions **426** shown in FIG. **27** and the lock notch portions **444** shown in FIG. **29**.

(4) When the lock claw portion **426** is accommodated in the lock notch portion **444**, the plug-side end face **426***a* of the lock claw portion **426** shown in FIG. **28** is opposed to the plug-side inner wall surface **444***b* of the lock notch portion **444** shown in FIG. **30**. At the same time, the wire-side end face **426***b* of the lock claw portion **426** shown in FIG. **28** is opposed to the wire-side inner wall surface **444***c* of the lock notch portion **444** shown in FIG. **30**. As a result, the movement of the plug **3** in the wire direction relative to the receptacle **6** is constrained.

(5) The protrusion **427** shown in FIG. **27** is accommodated in the notch **443** shown in FIG. **29**, and the plug-side end face **427***a* of the protrusion **427** shown in FIG. **27** is opposed to the plug-side inner wall surface **443***a* of the notch **443** shown in FIG. **29**. As a result, the movement of the plug **3** in the wire plug direction relative to the receptacle **6** is constrained.

Sixth Embodiment

Next, a sixth embodiment of the present invention will be described with reference to FIGS. **32** to **35**. Here, differences between this embodiment and the fourth embodiment will be mainly described, while a repeat of previous descriptions is omitted as appropriate. Components corresponding to the components of the fourth embodiment described above are denoted by the same reference numerals as a rule.

(Plug **3**)

FIG. **32** shows the plug **3** in a state where the wire **2** is attached to the plug **3**. As shown in FIG. **32**, the plug **3** is formed to be elongated along the wire direction. The plug **3** includes a wire holding portion **510**, a wire connecting portion **511** (central conductor holding portion), and a plug body **512**, which are formed in the stated order in the wire plug direction. The plug **3** is integrally formed with the wire holding portion **510**, the wire connecting portion **511**, and the plug body **512**.

The wire holding portion **510** is a portion that crimps and holds the insulation **9** of the wire **2**. The wire holding portion **510** includes a base plate portion **515** and a pair of holding portions **516**. The base plate portion **515** is a flat plate-like portion orthogonal to the connector height direction. The pair of holding portions **516** are respectively connected to both ends in the connector width direction of the base plate portion **515**, and protrude in the board approaching direction. An end in the board approaching direction of each holding portion **516** is bent by a dedicated crimp tool, and is thus curved in the connector width center direction.

The wire connecting portion **511** is a portion that crimps and holds the strand wire **8** of the wire **2**. The wire connecting portion **511** is electrically connected to the strand wire **8** of the wire **2**. The wire connecting portion **511** includes a base plate portion **517** and a pair of holding portions **518**. The base plate portion **517** is a flat plate-like portion orthogonal to the connector height direction. The base plate portion **517** is connected to an end in the wire plug direction of the base plate portion **515** of the wire holding portion **510**. The pair of holding portions **518** are respectively connected to both ends in the connector width direction of the base plate portion **517**, and protrude in the board approaching direction. Each holding portion **518** is bent by a dedicated crimp tool, and is thus curved in a C-shape toward the connector width center direction. Each holding portion **518** is curved so as to swell out in the board approaching direction.

The plug body **512** includes a base plate portion **519**, a pair of contact beams **520**, and a pair of lock units **526**.

The base plate portion **519** is a flat plate-like portion that is connected to an end in the wire plug direction of the base plate portion **517** of the wire connecting portion **511** and extends in the wire plug direction. The base plate portion **519** is orthogonal to the connector height direction. At the center in the connector width direction of the base plate portion **519**, a slit **521** which extends in the wire direction is formed. The base plate portion **519** includes a distal end inner wall surface **521***a* which defines a space in the wire plug direction of the slit **521**, and a proximal end inner wall surface **521***b* which defines a space in the plug wire direction of the slit **521**.

The pair of contact beams **520** and the pair of lock units **526** are each formed in a symmetrical shape in the connector width direction. Accordingly, only one of each pair will be described, and the description of the other one of each pair will be omitted.

The contact beam **520** is a portion that functions as a contact with the receptacle **6**. The contact beam **520** is formed in a beam shape. The contact beam **520** is formed in a cantilever shape. The contact beam **520** is a cantilever supported by the base plate portion **519**. The contact beam **520** is connected to an end in the connector width direction of the base plate portion **519**, and is positioned so as to be erected at a right angle with respect to the base plate portion **519**. The contact beam **520** is a cantilever which is formed in a U-shape that is opened in the plug wire direction when viewed along the board separating direction. The contact beam **520** includes a side plate portion **522**, a curved portion **523**, an inclined portion **524**, and a contact portion **525**. The shape of each contact beam **520** is completely identical with the shape of the contact beam **320** of the fourth embodiment. As for the inclined portion **524** and the contact portion **525**, also refer to the inclined portion **324** and the contact portion **325** shown in FIG. **19**.

The side plate portion **522** is a portion that is connected to an end in the connector width direction of the base plate portion **519** and extends in the wire plug direction. The side plate portion **522** is orthogonal to the connector width direction.

The curved portion **523** is a portion that is connected to an end in the wire plug direction of the side plate portion **522** and is curved in a C-shape toward the connector width center direction.

The inclined portion **524** is a portion that is connected to an end on a side opposite to the side plate portion **522** of the curved portion **523** and extends in the plug wire direction. The inclined portion **524** is inclined in the connector width center direction toward the plug wire direction.

The contact portion **525** is a portion that is connected to an end in the plug wire direction of the inclined portion **524** and extends in the plug wire direction. The distance between the contact portion **525** of one of the contact beams **520** and the contact portion **525** of the other contact beam **520** is set to be smaller than the thickness of the receptacle **6**. Due to the presence of the inclined portion **524** and the curved portion **523**, the contact portion **525** is elastically deformable in the connector width anti-center direction.

As shown in FIG. **33**, the lock unit **526** includes a lock beam **526***a*, a lock beam **526***b*, a claw portion **526***c*, and a claw portion **526***d*. The lock beam **526***a* and the lock beam **526***b* are cantilevers that are each connected to an end in the plug wire direction of the contact beam **520** and extend in the board approaching direction. The lock beam **526***a* is disposed at a location closer to a side in the wire plug direction than the lock beam **526***b*. The claw portion **526***c* is a portion that is connected to an end in the board approaching direction of the lock beam **526***a* and protrudes in the wire plug direction. The claw portion **526***d* is a portion that is connected to an end in the board approaching direction of the lock beam **526***b* and protrudes in the plug wire direction.

(Receptacle **6**)

As shown in FIG. **34**, the receptacle **6** is formed to be elongated in the wire direction. The receptacle **6** includes a base plate portion **540** and a contact unit **543**.

The base plate portion **340** is a portion that is soldered to the electrode pad **7** (see FIGS. **16** and **17**) on the connector mounting surface **5** of the board **4**. The base plate portion **540** is formed to be elongated in the wire direction. The base plate portion **540** includes a first soldered portion **540***a*, a lock plate portion **540***b*, and a second soldered portion **540***c*, which are formed in the stated order in the wire plug direction. The first soldered portion **540***a* is formed in a flat plate shape orthogonal to the connector height direction. The lock plate portion **540***b* is connected to an end in the wire plug direction of the first soldered portion **540***a*, is slightly raised in the board separating direction relative to the first soldered portion **540***a*, and is formed in a flat plate shape orthogonal to the connector height direction. A pair of lock hole portions **540***d* are respectively formed at both ends in the connector width direction of the lock plate portion **540***b*. The second soldered portion **540***c* is connected to an end in the wire plug direction of the lock plate portion **540***b*, is slightly recessed in the board approaching direction relative to the lock plate portion **540***b*, and is formed in a flat plate shape orthogonal to the connector height direction. The first soldered portion **540***a* and the second soldered portion **540***c* are soldered to the electrode pad **7** on the connector mounting surface **5** of the board **4**.

The contact unit **543** is a portion that functions as a contact with the plug **3**. The contact unit **543** is supported by the base plate portion **540**. The contact unit **543** includes a unit proximal end **545** and a contact piece **546**. The unit proximal end **545** is a portion that is connected to an end in the wire plug direction of the base plate portion **540** and protrudes in the board separating direction. The unit proximal end **545** is connected to a portion on one side in the connector width direction of the end in the wire plug direction of the base plate portion **540**. The unit proximal end **545** is orthogonal to the wire direction. The contact piece **546** is connected to an end in the connector width center direction of the unit proximal end **545**, and is formed so as to extend in the plug wire direction. The contact piece **546** is orthogonal to the connector width direction. The contact piece **546** has a tapered portion **547** that protrudes in the board separating direction. The tapered portion **547** is formed at an end in the board separating direction of the contact piece **546**. The tapered portion **547** is formed on a side in the plug wire direction of the contact piece **546**. The tapered portion **547** has a pair of inclined surfaces **548** which is formed in such a manner that the tapered portion **547** is tapered in the board separating direction. The tapered portion **547** includes a plug-side end face **547***a* that faces in the wire plug direction, and a wire-side end face **547***b* that faces in the plug wire direction. Due to the presence of the unit proximal end **545** and the contact piece **546**, the contact unit **543** forms an L-shape when viewed along the board approaching direction. The contact piece **546** of the contact unit **543** is formed at a location apart from the base plate portion **540**. That is, the gap "h" (also see FIG. **23**) is formed between the contact piece **546** of the contact unit **543** and the base plate portion **540**. To put it briefly, the contact piece **546** is disposed at a location farther from the board **4** than the base plate portion **540**.

(Mating Operation)

Next, the mating operation for mating the plug **3** with the receptacle **6** will be described. For reference, FIG. **35** shows a state in which the plug **3** is mated with the receptacle **6**.

First, as shown in FIG. **17**, the wire **2** is attached to the plug **3**, and the plug **3** is moved toward the receptacle **6**. The direction of movement of the plug **3** toward the receptacle **6** is indicated the above-mentioned mating direction P. At this time, the plug **3** is moved toward the receptacle **6** in such a manner that the tapered portion **547** of the receptacle **6** shown in FIG. **34** is fitted between the contact portions **525** of the pair of contact beams **520** of the plug body **512** of the plug **3** shown in FIG. **32**.

Then, the pair of contact portions **525** shown in FIG. **32** contacts the pair of inclined surfaces **548** of the contact piece **546** shown in FIG. **34**, and the claw portion **526***c* and the claw portion **526***d* of each one of the pair of lock units **526** shown in FIG. **32** contact the base plate portion **540** in the state of being slightly inserted into the corresponding one of the pair of lock hole portions **540***d* shown in FIG. **34**.

In this state, when the plug **3** is pushed in the board approaching direction by using the base plate portion **519** of the plug body **512** shown in FIG. **32**, the plug **3** and the receptacle **6** behave in the following manner.

(1) The contact piece **546** shown in FIG. **34** is inserted between the contact portions **525** of the pair of contact beams **520**, while the pair of contact beams **520** shown in FIG. **32** is elastically deformed. As a result, the contact portions **525** of the pair of contact beams **520** are allowed to reliably contact the contact piece **546** of the receptacle **6** by the spring restoring force of the contact beams **520**.

(2) Eventually, the tapered portion **547** of the contact piece **546** shown in FIG. **34** is inserted into the slit **521** of the base plate portion **519** shown in FIG. **32**. At this time, the plug-side end face **547***a* of the tapered portion **547** shown in FIG. **34** is opposed to the distal end inner wall surface **521***a* of the base plate portion **519** shown in FIG. **32**. The wire-side end face **547***b* of the tapered portion **547** shown in FIG. **34** is opposed to the proximal end inner wall surface **521***b* of the base plate portion **519** shown in FIG. **32**. As a result, the movement of the plug **3** in the wire direction relative to the receptacle **6** is constrained.

(3) The pair of lock units **526** shown in FIG. **32** are respectively inserted into the pair of lock hole portions **540***d* shown in FIG. **34**, thereby allowing the claw portion **526***c* and the claw portion **526***d* to be caught on the lock plate portion **540***b* of the base plate portion **540**. As a result, the plug **3** is prevented from being disengaged from the receptacle **6** when the wire **2** is pulled in the board separating direction. In this embodiment, the lock mechanism R is implemented by the lock units **526** shown in FIG. **32** and the lock hole portions **540***d* shown in FIG. **34**.

This application is based upon and claims the benefit of priority from Japanese patent application No. 2012-074033, filed on Mar. 28, 2012, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein in its entirety by reference.

REFERENCE SIGNS LIST

1 WIRE-TO-BOARD CONNECTOR
2 WIRE
3 PLUG (FIRST TERMINAL)
4 BOARD
5 CONNECTOR MOUNTING SURFACE
6 RECEPTACLE (SECOND TERMINAL)
7 ELECTRODE PAD
8 STRAND WIRE (CENTRAL CONDUCTOR)
9 INSULATION
10 WIRE HOLDING PORTION
11 WIRE CONNECTING PORTION (CENTRAL CONDUCTOR HOLDING PORTION)
12 PLUG BODY
15 BASE PLATE PORTION
16 HOLDING PORTION
17 BASE PLATE PORTION
18 HOLDING PORTION
19 BASE PLATE PORTION
20 ERECT ROD GUIDE PORTION
22 ERECT ROD GUIDE HOLE PORTION (GUIDE HOLE PORTION)
23 CONTACT BEAM
23*a* PROXIMAL END
23*b* INCLINED PORTION
23*c* DISTAL END
24 PUSHING PLATE PORTION
25 CONTACT PIECE GUIDE PORTION
40 BASE PLATE PORTION
41 SIDE PLATE PORTION
42 ERECT ROD (GUIDE ROD PORTION)
43 CONTACT UNIT
44 GUIDE INCLINED PORTION (INCLINED PORTION)
45 UNIT PROXIMAL END
46 UNIT INTERMEDIATE PORTION
47 CONTACT PIECE
48 INCLINED SURFACE
49 LOCK UNIT
50 LOCK BEAM
51 CLAW PORTION
51*a* INCLINED SURFACE
140 BASE PLATE PORTION
141 SIDE PLATE PORTION
142 ERECT ROD (GUIDE ROD PORTION)
143 CONTACT UNIT
144 GUIDE INCLINED PORTION (INCLINED PORTION)
145 UNIT PROXIMAL END
146 UNIT INTERMEDIATE PORTION
147 CONTACT PIECE
148 INCLINED SURFACE
149 LOCK UNIT
153 STANDING PORTION
154 CURVED PORTION
155 INCLINED PORTION
155*a* INCLINED SURFACE
210 WIRE HOLDING PORTION
211 WIRE CONNECTING PORTION (CENTRAL CONDUCTOR HOLDING PORTION)
212 PLUG BODY
215 BASE PLATE PORTION
216 HOLDING PORTION
217 BASE PLATE PORTION
218 HOLDING PORTION
219 BASE PLATE PORTION
220 PUSHING PLATE PORTION
222 ERECT ROD GUIDE HOLE PORTION (GUIDE HOLE PORTION)
223 CONTACT BEAM
223*a* PROXIMAL END
223*b* INCLINED PORTION
223*c* DISTAL END
224 ERECT ROD GUIDE PORTION
224*a* NOTCH
225 LOCK UNIT
226 CONTACT PIECE GUIDE PORTION
227 LOCK BEAM
228 CLAW PORTION
240 BASE PLATE PORTION
240*a* FIRST SOLDERED PORTION
240*b* LOCK PLATE PORTION
240*c* SECOND SOLDERED PORTION
240*d* LOCK HOLE PORTION
241 SIDE PLATE PORTION
242 ERECT ROD (GUIDE ROD PORTION)
243 CONTACT UNIT
245 UNIT PROXIMAL END
246 UNIT INTERMEDIATE PORTION
247 CONTACT PIECE
248 INCLINED SURFACE
310 WIRE HOLDING PORTION
311 WIRE CONNECTING PORTION (CENTRAL CONDUCTOR HOLDING PORTION)
312 PLUG BODY
315 BASE PLATE PORTION
316 HOLDING PORTION

317 BASE PLATE PORTION
318 HOLDING PORTION
319 BASE PLATE PORTION
320 CONTACT BEAM
321 SLIT
321*a* DISTAL END INNER WALL SURFACE
321*b* PROXIMAL END INNER WALL SURFACE
322 SIDE PLATE PORTION
323 CURVED PORTION
324 INCLINED PORTION
325 CONTACT PORTION
326 LOCK HOLE PORTION
326*a* BOARD-SIDE INNER WALL SURFACE
326*b* PLUG-SIDE INNER WALL SURFACE
326*c* WIRE-SIDE INNER WALL SURFACE
327 PROTRUSION
327*a* PLUG-SIDE END FACE
327*b* WIRE-SIDE END FACE
340 BASE PLATE PORTION
341 LOCK BEAM
342 CONTACT UNIT
343 NOTCH
343*a* PLUG-SIDE INNER WALL SURFACE
343*b* WIRE-SIDE INNER WALL SURFACE
344 LOCK RAISED PORTION
344*a* PLUG-SIDE END FACE
344*b* BOARD-SIDE END FACE
345 UNIT PROXIMAL END
346 CONTACT PIECE
347 TAPERED PORTION
347*a* PLUG-SIDE END FACE
347*b* WIRE-SIDE END FACE
348 INCLINED SURFACE
410 WIRE HOLDING PORTION
411 WIRE CONNECTING PORTION (CENTRAL CONDUCTOR HOLDING PORTION)
412 PLUG BODY
415 BASE PLATE PORTION
416 HOLDING PORTION
417 BASE PLATE PORTION
418 HOLDING PORTION
419 BASE PLATE PORTION
420 CONTACT BEAM
421 SLIT
421*a* DISTAL END INNER WALL SURFACE
421*b* PROXIMAL END INNER WALL SURFACE
422 SIDE PLATE PORTION
423 CURVED PORTION
424 INCLINED PORTION
425 CONTACT PORTION
426 LOCK CLAW PORTION
426*a* PLUG-SIDE END FACE
426*b* WIRE-SIDE END FACE
426*c* DISTAL END FACE
427 PROTRUSION
427*a* PLUG-SIDE END FACE
440 BASE PLATE PORTION
441 SIDE PLATE PORTION
442 CONTACT UNIT
443 NOTCH
443*a* PLUG-SIDE INNER WALL SURFACE
444 LOCK NOTCH PORTION
444*a* LOCK SURFACE
444*b* PLUG-SIDE INNER WALL SURFACE
444*c* WIRE-SIDE INNER WALL SURFACE
445 UNIT PROXIMAL END
446 CONTACT PIECE
447 TAPERED PORTION
447*a* PLUG-SIDE END FACE
447*b* WIRE-SIDE END FACE
448 INCLINED SURFACE
510 WIRE HOLDING PORTION
511 WIRE CONNECTING PORTION (CENTRAL CONDUCTOR HOLDING PORTION)
512 PLUG BODY
515 BASE PLATE PORTION
517 BASE PLATE PORTION
518 HOLDING PORTION
519 BASE PLATE PORTION
520 CONTACT BEAM
521 SLIT
521*a* DISTAL END INNER WALL SURFACE
521*b* PROXIMAL END INNER WALL SURFACE
522 SIDE PLATE PORTION
523 CURVED PORTION
524 INCLINED PORTION
525 CONTACT PORTION
526 LOCK UNIT
526*a* LOCK BEAM
526*b* LOCK BEAM
526*c* CLAW PORTION
526*d* CLAW PORTION
540 BASE PLATE PORTION
540*a* FIRST SOLDERED PORTION
540*b* LOCK PLATE PORTION
540*c* SECOND SOLDERED PORTION
540*d* LOCK HOLE PORTION
543 CONTACT UNIT
545 UNIT PROXIMAL END
546 CONTACT PIECE
547 TAPERED PORTION
547*a* PLUG-SIDE END FACE
547*b* WIRE-SIDE END FACE
548 INCLINED SURFACE
g GAP
h GAP
i GAP
P MATING DIRECTION
R LOCK MECHANISM
s SLIT

The invention claimed is:

1. A wire-to-board connector comprising:
a first terminal that is attached to a wire; and
a second terminal that is mounted on a connector mounting surface of a board, the first terminal and the second terminal being each formed of metal, the first terminal being mated with the second terminal to thereby connect the wire to the board, wherein
when the first terminal is mated with the second terminal, a wire direction corresponding to a longitudinal direction of the wire in the vicinity of the first terminal is parallel to the connector mounting surface of the board,
a mating direction in which the first terminal is mated with the second terminal is a direction approaching the connector mounting surface of the board,
the second terminal includes a guide rod portion extending so as to be away from the connector mounting surface of the board, and
the first terminal has a guide hole portion into which the guide rod portion is inserted.

2. A wire-to-board connector comprising:
a first terminal that is attached to a wire; and
a second terminal that is mounted on a connector mounting surface of a board, the first terminal and the second

terminal being each formed of metal, the first terminal being mated with the second terminal to thereby connect the wire to the board, wherein

when the first terminal is mated with the second terminal, a wire direction corresponding to a longitudinal direction of the wire in the vicinity of the first terminal is parallel to the connector mounting surface of the board,

a mating direction in which the first terminal is mated with the second terminal is a direction approaching the connector mounting surface of the board,

the first terminal includes a pair of contact beams having a beam shape, the first terminal further includes a guide hole portion into which a guide rod is inserted, and

the second terminal includes a contact piece that is inserted between the pair of contact beams.

3. The wire-to-board connector according to claim **2**, wherein the pair of contact beams is formed in a cantilever shape.

4. The wire-to-board connector according to claim **2**, wherein the first terminal includes a pushing plate portion disposed opposite to the board with the pair of contact beams interposed therebetween.

5. A wire-to-board connector comprising:

a first terminal that is attached to a wire; and

a second terminal that is mounted on a connector mounting surface of a board, the first terminal and the second terminal being each formed of metal, the first terminal being mated with the second terminal to thereby connect the wire to the board, wherein

when the first terminal is mated with the second terminal, a wire direction corresponding to a longitudinal direction of the wire in the vicinity of the first terminal is parallel to the connector mounting surface of the board,

a mating direction in which the first terminal is mated with the second terminal is a direction approaching the connector mounting surface of the board,

the second terminal includes:

a base plate portion opposed to the connector mounting surface of the board; and

a pair of side plate portions that sandwich the first terminal mated with the second terminal in a wire orthogonal direction orthogonal to the wire direction,

the first terminal includes a pair of contact beams having a beam shape,

the second terminal includes a contact piece that is inserted between the pair of contact beams, and

the contact piece is supported by one of the pair of side plate portions.

6. A wire-to-board connector comprising:

a first terminal that is attached to a wire; and

a second terminal that is mounted on a connector mounting surface of a board, the first terminal and the second terminal being each formed of metal, the first terminal being mated with the second terminal to thereby connect the wire to the board, wherein

when the first terminal is mated with the second terminal, a wire direction corresponding to a longitudinal direction of the wire in the vicinity of the first terminal is parallel to the connector mounting surface of the board,

a mating direction in which the first terminal is mated with the second terminal is a direction approaching the connector mounting surface of the board,

the second terminal includes:

a base plate portion opposed to the connector mounting surface of the board; and

a pair of side plate portions that sandwich the first terminal mated with the second terminal in a wire orthogonal direction orthogonal to the wire direction,

at least one of the first terminal and the second terminal has a lock mechanism that prevents disengagement of the first terminal from the second terminal,

the second terminal further includes:

a pair of lock beams that are respectively supported by the pair of side plate portions and extend in a beam shape in the wire direction; and

a pair of claw portions that are respectively supported by the pair of lock beams and protrude so as to approach each other,

the first terminal is formed to be caught on the pair of claw portions of the second terminal when the first terminal is mated with the second terminal, and

the pair of lock beams and the pair of claw portions constitute the lock mechanism.

7. The wire-to-board connector according to claim **6**, wherein

the first terminal includes a conductor holding portion that holds a conductor of the wire, and

the conductor holding portion of the first terminal is formed to be caught on the pair of claw portions of the second terminal when the first terminal is mated with the second terminal.

8. A wire-to-board connector comprising:

a first terminal that is attached to a wire; and

a second terminal that is mounted on a connector mounting surface of a board, the first terminal and the second terminal being each formed of metal, the first terminal being mated with the second terminal to thereby connect the wire to the board, wherein

when the first terminal is mated with the second terminal, a wire direction corresponding to a longitudinal direction of the wire in the vicinity of the first terminal is parallel to the connector mounting surface of the board,

a mating direction in which the first terminal is mated with the second terminal is a direction approaching the connector mounting surface of the board,

the second terminal includes:

a base plate portion opposed to the connector mounting surface of the board;

a pair of side plate portions that sandwich the first terminal mated with the second terminal in a wire orthogonal direction orthogonal to the wire direction, and

a pair of inclined portions which are respectively connected to the pair of side plate portions and are inclined so as to be gradually spaced apart from each other in a direction away from the connector mounting surface of the board.

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